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THE FORMAL GARDEN  
IN ENGLAND





# THE FORMAL GARDEN IN ENGLAND

BY

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IN ENGLAND'

*WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY*

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## PREFACE TO THIRD EDITION

DURING the last few years the question of garden design has been discussed with a zeal possibly out of proportion to its intrinsic importance, and the subject, as merely literary material, appears to possess a dangerous fascination for writers with a turn for pretty sentiment rather than for exact habits of thought. It is therefore necessary to recall the attention of the thoughtful lover of gardens to what for the purpose I may call first principles, and it has been the object of this short history to show, by some account of what was actually done in the past, that the gardens which we all admire were not laid out at random, but in accordance with a theory of æsthetic which embraced all the arts in its application. I do not mean by this that the garden designers of the seventeenth century went to work with the deliberate intention of realising a theory, but that, living as they did at

a time when tradition was active and when there existed a sense of the arts in their general relationship, as opposed to the merely skilled individualism of modern art, they inevitably maintained in garden design the habit of mind which they maintained in all the other arts. In other words, garden design took its place in the great art of architecture, with the result of that well-ordered harmony which was characteristic of the house and garden in England down to the middle of the eighteenth century. It has been the work of the last century to destroy this invaluable instinct, and all that it has offered in its place has been a habit of specialising which may sometimes arrive at technical excellence, but has assuredly lost us the architectural sense. It is the absence of this sense which is the most glaring fault of modern design, and it is shown most conspicuously in the work of the modern landscape gardener.

At the date at which the first two editions of this book were issued, a somewhat acrid controversy raged between landscape gardeners and architects. The gardeners said the architects knew nothing about gardening, and the architects said the gardeners knew nothing about design, and there was a good deal of truth on

both sides. The first point to be cleared up was the confusion between horticulture and design, and, having handed over horticulture to the gardener, the question of design came fairly within the province of the architect. In the attempt, however, to dislodge a tradition of bad taste, a somewhat polemical treatment was necessary. The occasion for this no longer exists, and I have therefore omitted the preface to the second edition. Indeed the danger at this moment is rather that one trick of design should be substituted for another, and that in our admiration for certain beautiful old gardens we should attempt to reproduce them blindly under impossible conditions. There are, for instance, sites which make a purely formal garden out of the question ; and others in which, even if it were possible, it would not be desirable ; and it would be as absurd to make the desperate attempt as is that favourite device of the landscape gardener who cannot resist the manufacture of a hummock in order that he may wind his path all round it. For in design we want not only a sense of beauty, but also common sense ; and the amateur should be on his guard against abstract rules and recipes. What looks well in one place may look very ill in another, and when

the copy is based on a print or a drawing ill understood, the result is probably disastrous. Short cuts in these matters are not to be found. Thought and imagination, skilled knowledge and a light hand in execution, are the necessities, and they are not to be set out in the terms of a chemist's prescription. There is much that the amateur can do in the garden, but when he starts on his wild career in large design, he runs a very good chance of sharing the fate of Icarus.

REGINALD BLOMFIELD.

NEW COURT, TEMPLE,  
*May 1901.*

## PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION

THIS short account of the Formal Garden in England does not profess to be exhaustive. The field is a wide one and includes subjects any one of which could only be fully handled in a special study. An attempt, however, has been made to break up ground and to clear away misconceptions by giving so much of its history as will show the general character of the formal garden in England, its absolute separation from landscape gardening, and the extent and variety of design which it involves. It is to the design of the garden that the scope of the work more particularly refers. No attempt has been made to deal with horticulture, with the right methods of growing plants and flowers and trees : these are fully discussed by the proper authorities in existing works on gardening ; but the question of design, of the treatment of the grounds as a whole as well as

in detail, is an entirely distinct one, which has been confused with that of horticulture, and finally superseded by it. Horticulture stands to garden design much as building does to architecture ; the two are connected, but very far from being identical. This book has been written entirely from the stand-point of the designer, and therefore contains little or no reference to the actual methods of horticulture.

The illustrations have been drawn by Mr. Thomas, the letterpress has been written by Mr. Blomfield from materials collected conjointly. The writer begs to thank Mr. Seeley for permission to reprint passages from an article on "Gardens," contributed by him to *The Portfolio*, December 1889.

A list of the works referred to will be found in Appendix III.



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## CHAPTER I

### THE FORMAL METHOD AND THE LANDSCAPE GARDENER

THE Formal System of Gardening has suffered from a question-begging name. It has been labelled "Formal" by its ill-wishers; and though, in a way, the term expresses the orderly result at which the system aims, the implied reproach is disingenuous. The history of this method of dealing with gardens will be discussed in subsequent chapters, but as some misunderstanding prevails as to its intention, and any quantity of misrepresentation, it will be well to clear the ground by a statement of the principles and standpoint of the Formal School as compared with Landscape Gardening.

The question at issue is a very simple one. Is the garden to be considered in relation to the house, and as an integral part of a design which depends for its success on the combined effect of house and garden; or is the house to be ignored in dealing with the garden? The latter is the

position of the landscape gardener in real fact. There is some affectation in his treatises of recognising the relationship between the two, but his actual practice shows that this admission is only borrowed from the formal school to save appearances, and is out of court in a method which systematically dispenses with any kind of system whatever.

The formal treatment of gardens ought, perhaps, to be called the architectural treatment of gardens, for it consists in the extension of the principles of design which govern the house to the grounds which surround it. Architects are often abused for ignoring the surroundings of their buildings in towns, and under conditions which make it impossible for them to do otherwise; but if the reproach has force, and it certainly has, it applies with greater justice to those who control both the house and its surroundings, and yet deliberately set the two at variance. The object of formal gardening is to bring the two into harmony, to make the house grow out of its surroundings, and to prevent its being an excrescence on the face of nature. The building cannot resemble anything in nature, unless you are content with a mud-hut and cover it with grass. Architecture in any shape has certain definite characteristics which it cannot get rid of; but, on the other hand, you can lay out the grounds, and alter the levels, and plant hedges and trees exactly as you



please; in a word, you can so control and modify the grounds as to bring nature into harmony with the house, if you cannot bring the house into harmony with nature. The harmony arrived at is not any trick of imitation, but an affair of a dominant idea which stamps its impress on house and grounds alike.

Starting, then, with the house as our datum, we have to consider it as a visible object, what sort of thing it is that we are actually looking at. A house, or any other building, considered simply as a visible object, presents to the eye certain masses arranged in definite planes and proportions, and certain colours distributed in definite quality and quantity. It is regular, it presents straight lines and geometrical curves. Any but the most ill-considered efforts in building—anything with any title to the name of architecture—implies premeditated form in accordance with certain limits and necessities. However picturesque the result, however bravely some chimney breaks the sky-line, or some gable contradicts another, all architecture implies restraint, and if not symmetry, at least balance. There is order everywhere and there is no escaping it. Now, suppose this visible object dropped, let us say from heaven, into the middle of a piece of ground, and this piece of ground laid out with a studied avoidance of all order, all balance, all definite lines, and the result must be a hopeless disagreement between

the house and its surroundings. This very effect can be seen in the efforts of the landscape gardener, and in old country houses, such as Barrington Court, near Langport, where the gardens have not been kept up. There is a gaunt, famished, incomplete look about these houses, which is due quite as much to the obvious want of relation between the house and its grounds, as to any associations of decay.

Something, then, of the quality of the house must be found in the grounds. The house will have its regular approach and its courtyard—rectangular, round, or oval—its terrace, its paths straight and wide, its broad masses of unbroken grass, its trimmed hedges and alleys, its flowerbeds bounded by the strong definite lines of box-edgings and the like—all will show the quality of order and restraint; the motive of the house suggests itself in the terrace and the gazebo, and recurs, like the theme in a coda, as you pass between the piers of the garden gate.

Thus the formal garden will produce with the house a homogeneous result, which cannot be reached by either singly. Now let us see how the landscape gardener deals with the problem of house and grounds.

It is not easy to state his principles, for his system consists in the absence of any; and most modern writers on the subject lead off with hearty and indiscriminate abuse of formal gardening, after which they incontinently drop

the question of garden design, and go off at a tangent on horticulture and hot-houses. A great deal is said about nature and her beauty, and fidelity to nature, and so on ; but as the landscape gardener never takes the trouble to state precisely what he means by nature, and indeed prefers to use the word in half a dozen different senses, we are not very much the wiser so far as principles are concerned. The axiom on which the system rests is this—"Whatever nature does is right ; therefore let us go and copy her." Let us obliterate the marks of man's handiwork (and particularly any suspicion of that bad man, the architect), and though we shall manipulate the face of nature with the greatest freedom, we shall be careful to make people believe that we have not manipulated it at all. Various rules are given as to the proper method of "copying nature's graceful touch"—the favourite phrase of the landscapist. The older writers, such as Wheatly (*Observations on Modern Gardening*, 1770), had a theory which was at least intelligible as a theory. They considered the landscape gardener as a painter on a colossal scale. By altering natural scenery he was to produce such landscapes as are admired in the works of the old masters. The method of procedure as explained by Wheatly is this. You determine *à priori* the abstract characteristics of any natural object ; and then, on considerations evolved from your inner con-

sciousness, you alter the surrounding scenery to bring out these characteristics. For instance, the characteristics of rocks are determined to be "dignity, terror, and fancy." By way of enhancing dignity, Wheatly tells us to cut away the ground to make them steeper; and to refine their appearance we are to cover them up with "shrubby and creeping plants." Or again, if the scenery is wild, we may make it wilder by making a ruined stone bridge. Straight lines and unbroken masses of foliage are to be avoided at all costs, in order to secure variety of effect, "and the planter is to plant trees of different foliage at stated intervals, by way of reproducing the colours of the painter's palette." These views are repeated in modern treatises on landscape gardening, with, however, a curious inversion. Wheatly's idea was that we should saturate our minds with the compositions of the old masters, and then proceed to alter actual scenery till it resembled their pictures; but the modern landscapist tells us that we are to copy nature—that is, study a piece of scenery of natural formation, and then reproduce this in our gardens. Wheatly admitted design of some sort, while his successors direct every effort to imitating the absence of design. The latter insist that we are not to copy nature literally, but only in her spirit, whatever that may mean. Mr. Robinson says, "We should compose from nature as land-

scape artists do. It is still his (the landscape gardener's) privilege to make ever-changing pictures out of nature's own material—sky and trees, water and flowers and grass. If he would not prefer this to painting in pigments, he has no business to be a landscape gardener. The aim should be never to rest till the garden is a reflex of nature in her fairest moods." For instance, because nature is assumed never to show straight lines, all paths are to be made crooked, and presumably Mr. Robinson's dictum that "walks should be concealed as much as possible, and reduced to the most modest dimensions" is based on the state of a virgin forest; the argument perhaps running thus, because in a virgin forest there are no paths at all, let us in our acre and a half of garden make as little of the paths as possible. Deception is a primary object of the landscape gardener. Thus to get variety, and to deceive the eye into supposing that the garden is larger than it is, the paths are to wind about in all directions, and the lawns are not to be left in broad expanse, but dotted about with pampas grasses, foreign shrubs, or anything else that will break up the surface. As was said by a witty Frenchman, "*Rien n'est plus facile que de dessiner un parc anglais; on n'a qu'à enivrer son jardinier, et à suivre son trace.*"

Mr. Milner, a recent writer on landscape gardening, has the courage to define what he

calls his art : "The art of landscape gardening may be stated as the taking true cognisance of nature's means for the expression of beauty, and so disposing those means artistically as to co-operate for our delight in given conditions." This is a hard saying, put in plain English it seems to amount to this : Select such landscape effects as appear to you to be beautiful, and endeavour to reproduce them in your garden. The process suggests the paste-pot and scissors of the penny-a-liner. By observation of natural scenery the landscape gardener is to form certain generalisations to guide his practice. Here are some of the results of Mr. Milner's studies : "A calculated shadow on a lawn is a resource of value for the artistic use of natural effect. In every situation a beyond implies discovery and affects the imagination ; the area is circumscribed of which we can take cognisance too readily and completely ; imagination is then confused or frustrated. The beauty of water, in motion or still, is of universal acceptance. The created character of a water feature must be consonant with the surrounding land, for fitness to surrounding conditions is a measure of beauty to both ; a lake expresses spaciousness, but much of its charm is due to its outline." There is a curious irrelevance about these apothegms which reminds one of Ollendorf : "My aunt is beautiful, but have you seen my sister's cat?"

As to any system, Mr. Milner throws up the

sponge at once. He admits in his first chapter that landscape gardening can have no set of fixed principles. He says generally that we are not to copy nature, but "to adapt and garner her beauties." Yet his advice as to treatment of details is point-blank copy. "The lawn of our garden" should present the appearance of a "grassy glade in a wood," appear, in short, to be exactly what it is not. For this is another of the objects of the landscape gardener; his aim is not to show things as they are, but as they are not. His first ambition is to make his interference with nature look "natural-like"; his second, to produce a false impression on the spectator and make him think the grounds to be twice as big as they are. "Bridges may be contrived to excite the impression of length." "The removal of some (trees) in particular situations, with a coincident lowering of the bank, will give an effect of lengthening the water area." So in regard to trees, "a hill is made to appear higher if its summit be planted." Or again, "an enclosure pure and simple, even though it be of leaves and not a brick wall, gives a shut-in and cramped feeling which needlessly militates against expressions of beauty and expanse that may be deftly gained from outside the boundary lines,"—that is, by deftly cutting holes in the line of trees we lead people to suppose that our neighbour's estate belongs to us. Hitherto no mention has been made of

architecture in this description of landscape gardening. Indeed, it is the object of the landscape gardener to exclude the architect from the garden, for he feels, like Demetrius, the silversmith, that his craft is in danger to be set at naught ; and having succeeded in expelling the architect a hundred and fifty years ago, he is naturally unwilling to let him in again. Mr. Milner does point out that the house should stand on a terrace, but proceeds to stultify his own admission by stating that the terrace "differs from the garden proper, which, though fine in calculated detail of its plan, should express by its breadth of treatment most unmistakably that nature has triumphed over art, because art has subtly tutored the development of nature," which, if it means anything, must mean that when you enter the garden you are to leave all thought of architecture behind you.

Thus, the substantial difference between the two views of gardening is this. The formal school insists upon design ; the house and the grounds should be designed together and in relation to each other ; no attempt should be made to conceal the design of the garden, there being no reason for doing so, but the bounding lines, whether it is the garden wall or the lines of paths and parterres, should be shown frankly and unreservedly, and the garden will be treated specifically as an enclosed space to be laid out exactly as the designer pleases. The



landscape gardener, on the other hand, turns his back upon architecture at the earliest opportunity and devotes his energies to making the garden suggest natural scenery, to giving a false impression as to its size by sedulously concealing all boundary lines, and to modifying the scenery beyond the garden itself, by planting or cutting down trees, as may be necessary to what he calls his picture. In matters of taste there is no arguing with a man. Probably people with a feeling for design and order will prefer the formal garden, while the landscape system, as it requires no knowledge of design, appeals to the average person who "knows what he likes," if he does not know anything else. *dumpling!*

One or two charges, however, which have been brought against the formal system, ought to be dealt with here. In the first place, it is said to be unnatural to lay out a garden in straight lines and regular banks and to clip your hedges. The landscape gardener appears to suppose that he has a monopoly of nature. Now, what is "nature" and what is "natural" in relation to gardens? "Il faut se méfier du mirage de le mot 'naturel' lorsqu'il s'agit des nuances de la sensibilité. Outre qu'il sert de masque, le plus souvent, aux inintelligences des ignorants ou aux hostilités des gens vulgaires, il a le malheur de ne pas envelopper de signification précise au regard du philosophe." <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Paul Bourget.

“Nature” must mean the earth itself and the forces at work in the earth, and the waters of the earth and sky, and the trees, flowers, and grass which grow on the earth, no matter whether planted by man or not. A clipped yew-tree is as much a part of nature—that is, subject to natural laws, as a forest oak; but the landscapist, by appealing to associations which surround the personification of nature, holds up the clipped yew-tree to obloquy as something against nature. So far as that goes, it is no more unnatural to clip a yew-tree than to cut grass. Again, “nature” is said to prefer a curved line to a straight, and it is thence inferred that all the lines in a garden, and especially paths, should be curved. Now as a matter of fact in nature—that is, in the visible phenomena of the earth’s surface—there are no lines at all; “a line” is simply an abstraction which conveniently expresses the direction of a succession of objects which may be either straight or curved. “Nature” has nothing to do with either straight lines or curved; it is simply begging the question to lay it down as an axiom that curved lines are more “natural” than straight. As a matter of fact, whatever “naturalness” there may be about it applies quite as well to a straight path and a plain expanse of grass; and it is open to us to say that the natural man would probably prefer a straight path to a zigzag, and that when his eye seeks wearily for

the rest of some quiet breadth of lawn and the welcome finality of a wall or hedgerow, he is "naturally" bored by the landscapist with his curves and his clumps.

The word "natural" can only mean something belonging to nature, or something done in accordance with nature's laws, as, for instance, planting a tree with its roots underground instead of upside down; but when the landscapist uses the word "natural," as when he calls his system a "purely artistic and natural" style, he means by it a style which imitates the visible results of natural causes, as, for instance, the copy of a piece of natural rock in a rockery. Now there is nothing more natural, properly speaking, about this than there is in the formation of a grass bank in the shape of a horse-shoe. In fact, this vaunted naturalness of landscape gardening is a sham; instead of leaving nature alone, the landscapist is always struggling to make nature lend itself to his deceptions. Mr. Milner gives unconsciously two instances of this. In a chapter on "Public Parks and Cemeteries" he tells us how, at Preston, a railway embankment, which runs across the public park, was made to look quite natural by "planting and irregular lines of walk and turf. Rockwork even has been introduced to foster the idea that the towering mass is only one part of an old cliff." And at Glossop the landscape gardener was still more heroic.

The park was divided by a ravine, with a stream running along the bottom. Accordingly, "the beautiful and natural parts of the ravine were picked out and made the most of, whilst, in order to convert the parts into a whole, the sides were in places levelled down, and the stream covered,"—a somewhat scurvy treatment of nature by the landscape gardener. This is all very well, but what becomes of nature? As Sir Uvedale Price said of Brown and his clumps of trees, "While Mr. Brown was removing old pieces of formality, he was establishing new ones of a more extensive and mischievous consequence." The claims of landscape gardening to be the true "natural style" will not bear investigation. When Addison and Pope sneered at the formal garden and praised "the amiable simplicity of unadorned nature," the logical conclusion would have been to condemn the garden altogether, and to let the house, if a house was to be allowed at all, rise from the heart of the thicket, or sheer from the rough hillside. It is hard to see how there is less interference with nature in an untidy grotto of shells and rocks than in a comfortable red-brick gazebo, and the entire extent of masonry used by Kent in his temples and grottoes at Stowe, must have been at least equal to the amount used by Le Nôtre at Sceaux or Chantilly. To suppose that love of nature is shown by trying to produce the

effects of wild nature on a small scale in a garden is clearly absurd; any one who loves natural scenery will want the real thing; he will hardly be content to sit in his rockery and suppose himself to be among the mountains. And again, some loyalty to her methods might have been expected of these enthusiasts for nature. It is surely flying in the face of nature to fill the garden with tropical plants, as we are urged to do by the writers on Landscape Gardening, ignoring the entire difference of climate, and the fact that a colour which may look superb in the midst of other strong colours, will look gaudy and vulgar amongst our sober tints, and that a leaf like that of the yucca, which may be all very well in its own country, is out of scale and character amidst the modest foliage of English trees. The formal gardener is, by his principles, entitled to do what he likes with nature, but the landscapist gets involved in all sorts of contradictions. He "copies nature's graceful touch," but under totally different conditions to the original; so far, therefore, from being loyal to nature, he is engaged in a perpetual struggle to prove her an ass. When we find him talking of "quite second-rate types of vegetation" (Mr. Robinson), and finding fault with nature for having put a running stream like the Derwent among rocks instead of "a more temperate river" (Wheatly), we begin to suspect that his "truth"

is a mere convention. Sainte-Beuve said of the Abbé Delille that he sincerely believed in his love of the fields, "*c'était la mode de la nature, on admirait la campagne du sein des boudoirs.*" Our landscape gardeners take themselves too seriously ; as the late Charles Blanc pointed out, their pretensions to be natural have landed them in the worst of all vices—"le faux naturel."

Two other charges are brought against the formal garden : first, that it involves much building and statuary ; secondly, that it requires much space. Neither the one nor the other is more necessary to the English formal garden than it is to the landscape garden. In regard to the first, Mr. Milner gives some very remarkable designs of rustic boat-houses, and summer-houses, and porticoes, as part and parcel of the landscape garden ; and it will appear that the wholesale and immoderate use of temples, statues, grottoes, made ruins, broken bridges and the like, originated with the landscape gardener, not with the formal school. In point of fact, though statuary was used in the old English garden, it was used much less than in the French and Italian gardens. Those who attack the old English formal garden do not take the trouble to master its very considerable difference from the continental gardens of the same period. They seem to consider the English Renaissance as identical with the Italian, and the public, seeing such dismal

fiascoes in the Italian style as the Crystal Palace Gardens and the basin at the head of the Serpentine, confuse these with the old English garden in one wholesale condemnation of the formal style. Against the introduction of the formal Italian garden of the sixteenth century into England there is a very great deal to be said. Such a garden properly carried out would be immensely costly, unless the balustrades and ornaments were made in composition, which is sure to come to pieces in a very few years, and in any case never colours (the case, by the way, with several of the most famous Italian gardens). Moreover, our climate and the quality of light in England make it impossible to obtain the effect which is actually attained in the great Italian gardens, such as those at Tivoli. The older English garden, as I shall show later, was by no means a direct copy of the Italian; and as to the matter of space, it is a mere assumption to lay it down that the formal style in England requires a great expanse of ground to be seen to perfection. This was necessary, no doubt, in the old French garden, but not in the English. Some of the best examples are on a comparatively small scale. The gardens at Haddon Hall are in three stages—the two top terraces only measure about 70 paces by 18 wide apiece, and the lower garden is only about 40 paces square. The beautiful old garden at Brickwall, in

Sussex, all walled in, measures about 65 paces by 55, and the kitchen and fruit garden about 90 by 50. The garden of Edzell Castle, in Forfarshire, all walled in, measures 58 paces long by 48 wide ; and a charming little flower garden

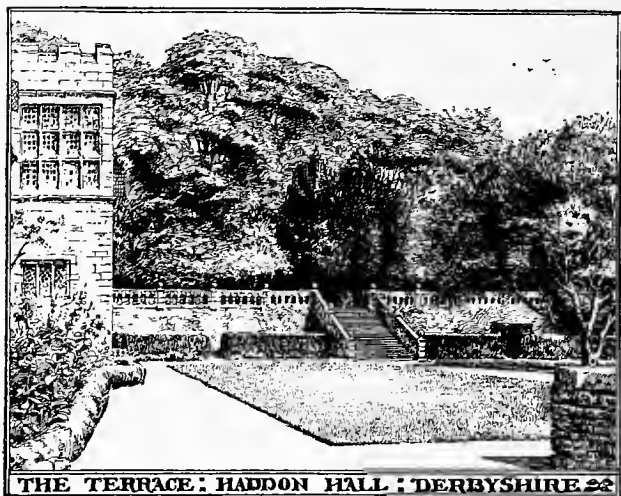


FIG. 1.—Haddon Hall.

at Stobhall, near Perth, in the old Scotch style is not much more than half an acre in extent. In fact, if either style wants room it is the landscape, for unrestricted space is of the essence of natural scenery ; and, indeed, the only places in which its use appears reasonable are gardens such as those of Chatsworth, where the grounds are so large that there is a real suggestion of scenery



*sui generis*, as of a wood in which clearings have been made and the grass kept carefully trimmed.

The word "garden" itself means an enclosed space, a garth or yard surrounded by walls, as opposed to unenclosed fields and woods. The formal garden, with its insistence on strong bounding lines, is, strictly speaking, the only "garden" possible ; and it was not till the decay of architecture, which began in the middle of the eighteenth century, that any other method of dealing with a garden was entertained.

Before quitting the subject of gardens in general, a distinction should be laid down between garden design and horticulture. The landscape gardener treats of the two indiscriminately, yet they are entirely distinct, and it is evident that to plan out the general disposition of a garden the knowledge necessary is that of design, not of the best method of growing a gigantic gooseberry. Mr. Robinson justly remarks that "the profession of an architect has no one thing in common with that of horticulture," and infers from this that the French do wrong to give the control of the Luxembourg gardens to an architect. But the question is not one of horticulture at all, but of design ; and just as in the house, the designer is only indirectly concerned with the process of manufacturing his bricks, so in the garden the designer need not know the best method of planting every flower or shrub included in his

design ; the gardener should see to that. The horticulturist and the gardener are indispensable, but they should work under control, and they stand in the same relation to the designer as the artist's colourman does to the painter, or perhaps it would be fairer to say, as the builder and his workmen stand to the architect. The two ought to work together. The designer, whether professional or amateur, should lay down the main lines and deal with the garden as a whole, but the execution, such as the best method of forming beds, laying turf, planting trees, and pruning hedges, should be left to the gardener, whose proper business it is.

## CHAPTER II

### THE GARDEN IN ENGLAND

IN his *Essay on Gardening* Horace Walpole says that we are "apt to think that Sir William Temple and King William introduced the formal style, but by the description of Lord Burleigh's gardens at Theobalds, and of those at Nonsuch, we find that the magnificent, though false taste was known here as early as the reigns of Henry VIII. and his daughter." This is of a piece with Walpole's generalisations on Gothic architecture. He seems to have supposed that it was possible to import an exotic style wholesale into the midst of a people with a strong indigenous tradition. As a matter of fact, the advance in garden design in the sixteenth century was, like English architecture of the time, the result of the grafting of ideas brought back from Italy on the vigorous stock of mediæval art, and the fully-developed formal garden of the seventeenth

century retained features which were distinct survivals from the mediæval garden.

No instances remain of any mediæval garden, and we have to form our ideas of it chiefly from illuminated manuscripts and early paintings. They were walled in, and supplied with water in conduits and fountains, and planted closely with hedges and alleys, as appears from the well-known lines written by James I. of Scotland during his captivity at Windsor, 1405-1424.

“Now was there made, fast by the Tower’s wall,  
A garden fair, and in corneris set  
Ane herbere green with wandes long and small,  
Railit about, and so with treeis set,  
Was all the place, and hawthorn hedges knet  
Thet lyf was non, walking there forbye,  
That might therein scarce any wight espye—  
So thick the boughis and the leaves green  
Beshaded all the alleys that there were—  
And myddis every herbere might be seene  
The sharp, green, sweete junipere.”

Mr. Hazlitt (*Gleanings in old Garden Literature*) has collected what evidence there is of the mediæval garden in contemporary literature, and unfortunately there is very little that throws much light on its arrangement. It was not, however, quite such an indiscriminate affair as Mr. Hazlitt suggests. In “The Romance of the Rose” in the British Museum (Harl. MS. 4425) there is a beautiful illumination of a garden, dating from the latter part of the fifteenth century. This garden is

divided into two by a fence, with a high gateway in the middle, but both gardens are surrounded by a wall with battlements. In the centre of



FIG. 2.—From "The Romance of the Rose."

the left-hand garden is a fountain or conduit of copper, standing in a circular basin with a marble curb, and a little runnel of water in a marble channel. The right-hand garden shows

rectangular grass plots, in one of which is an orange-tree in a circular fence ; at the farther end is a fence of flowers on a wooden trellis—and peacocks are shown in the garden. Both gardens are evidently pleasure or flower gardens, as distinct from the kitchen garden. Mr. Hazlitt suggests that “arbour” was originally “herbarium,” a space of grass planted with trees ; but the lines quoted above certainly refer to a “green arbour,” and prove that by the beginning of the fifteenth century an arbour, in pretty much the sense that we should understand it, formed a regular part of the garden. On page 14<sup>B</sup> of “The Romance of the Rose” there is a drawing of a garden with a wall about 7 feet high with battlements. On page 25 there is a drawing of a feature which seems to have been common in the mediæval garden—a square embrasure was formed in the brickwork of the garden wall, with a seat round three sides about 2 feet wide and 18 inches above the ground ; the seat was of grass. On page 30 a bed of roses is shown instead of the grass seat ; on page 43 a green walk, such as is frequently referred to in old writers, is shown, formed on wooden framing with red and white roses.

It is not, however, till the time of Henry VIII. that we come across any specific facts as to the arrangement of gardens. In 1520 Cardinal Wolsey began his great palace of Hampton Court. Wolsey’s gardens, as de-

scribed by George Cavendish, resemble the picture given by James I.



FIG. 3.—From "The Romance of the Rose."

"My garden sweet, enclosed with walles strong,  
Embanked with benches to sytt and take my rest,  
The knottes so enknotted, it cannot be exprest,

With arbours and allys so pleasant and so dulce,  
The pestilent ayres with flavors to repulse."

The enclosing walls, the knottes or figured flower-beds, the arbours and alleys, formed part of the mediæval gardens ; but when, after Wolsey's death in 1530, the palace and gardens came into the hands of Henry VIII. signs appear of a new influence at work. Statues and figures of all kinds were introduced, and various fantastic features which were, no doubt, borrowed from Italy. In the chapter-house accounts for the additions made by Henry VIII. appear the following entries :—

"Payd to Harry Corantt of Kyngston carver for making and entaylling of 38 of the kynges and queenys Beestes in freeston, baryng shyldes wyth the kynges armes and the queenys ; that is to say, foure dragones, scyx lyones, five grewhounds, five harttes, foure unicornes serving to stand about the pondde in the pondyard at 26s. the piece, £49 : 8 : 0.

"Item for paynting of 30 stone bests standyng uppon bases abought the ponds in the pond yard—Payd to Heny Blankston of London, paynter, for paynting of 180 postes with white and greene in oyle and every poste conteyning  $2\frac{1}{2}$  yards deyppe at 16d. the yard standing in the kynge's new Garden, £32 : 6 : 8.

"Also for lyke paynting 96 pouncheons with white and greene and in oyle wrought with fine antyke upon both sydes, beryng up the rayles in the said garden, £4 : 16 : 10.

"Also for paynting 960 yards in length of rayle.

"Kynges Beasts at the mount—Also payd Mych. of Hayles, kerver, for couattyng, makyng and karvyng of 16 of the kynges and the queenys beestes in tymber standyng about the mounte in the kynges new garden, the kynge



finding stuff thereto at 20s. the pece, by convencion, £16:0:0.

"Dials—To Bryce Augustine of Westmynster cloke-maker for making 16 brazin dials serving for the kynge's new garden at 4s. 4d. the piece.

"Trees—200 young treys of oake and elme—appul trees and pere trees—5 servys trees, 4 holly trees, quyksettes of woodbyne and thorne—treys of you—syper, Genaper, and Bayes at 2d. the pece, 600 chery trees at 6d. the 100—200 rose at 4d. the hundred, violettes, primroses, gitliver slips, mynts and other sweet flowers, sweet williams at 3d. the bushel—a boulder of rosemary 3 years old to set about the mount."

The actual posts and rails mentioned above are perhaps shown in the view of Hampton Court garden, which forms part of the background to the contemporary picture of Henry VIII. and his family at Hampton Court.<sup>1</sup> Some idea of the size can be formed from the 960 yards of railing. The only fragment of Henry VIII.'s garden at Hampton Court is probably the small sunk garden close to the vine-house called the Pond garden. Soon after 1539 the great Palace of Nonsuch, near Cheam, in Surrey, was begun for Henry VIII. It is certain that Italian workmen were largely employed on this building; and it is evident, from the description left by Hentzner, that

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Law, *History of Hampton Court Palace*, refers to a drawing by Wynegaarde in the Bodleian Library, and there is a remarkable view of these gardens in Tudor times in a picture of Queen Elizabeth, which was shown at the Tudor Exhibition. No. 310—The plots are shown divided by sanded paths with wooden balustrades and terminals at the angles, not unlike the views in the *Hortus Floridus* of Crispin de Pass.—All the woodwork is painted red in the picture.

Italian examples were freely copied in this garden.<sup>1</sup> The kitchen garden and the fruit garden were separated, and the latter was surrounded by a wall 14 feet high, covered with rosemary. Hentzner noticed this practice of covering the whole surface of a wall with rosemary at Hampton Court and other places in England. "In the artificial pleasure gardens," he writes, "there are many columns and pyramids of marble, and two fountains of springing water—one shaped like a round, the other like a pyramid; little birds spouting forth water sit on them. In the grove of Diana, in which is an artificial fountain, very pleasant to look upon, Actæon is being changed into a stag by the sprinkling of the goddess, with inscriptions underneath." Devices of this description, water-engines and elaborate hydraulic machines, were common in the great gardens of the sixteenth century. Hentzner mentions a curious sun-dial and fountain in the gardens at Whitehall which drenched the spectators if they came too close. Classical names and allusions were freely applied to the different parts of the garden. The garden at Theobalds, begun for Lord Burleigh in 1560, contained at one end a small mound called "the Mount of Venus." Hentzner gives a detailed account of this garden.

<sup>1</sup> Hentzner was a German who travelled through England in the sixteenth century and published an account of his travels in Latin at Nuremburg in 1598.

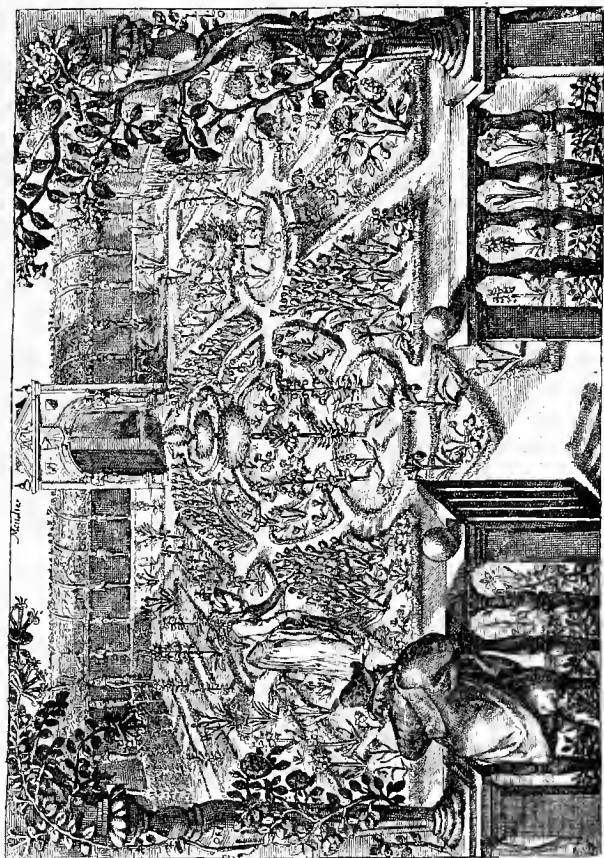


FIG. 4.—Crispin de Pass.

“Close to the palace is a garden surrounded on all sides by water, so that any one in a boat may wander to and fro among the fruit-groves with great pleasure to himself. There you will find various trees and herbs, labyrinths made with great pains, a fountain of springing water, of white marble; columns, too, and pyramids placed about the garden—some of wood, some of stone. We were afterwards taken to the garden-house by the gardener, and saw in the ground floor, which is circular in shape, twelve figures of Roman emperors in white marble, and a table of Lydian stone. The sides of the upper floor are surrounded by lead tanks, into which water is brought by pipes, so that fish can be kept in them, and in summer-time one can wash there in cold water. In a banqueting-room close to this room, and joined to it by a little bridge, there was an oval table of red marble.” In an account written by Frederick, Duke of Würzburg, in 1592, this table is described as of black touchstone 14 spans long, 7 spans wide, and 1 span thick. Peck, in his *Desiderata Curiosa*, says of these gardens, “One might walk two myle in the walkes before he came to their ends.”

Gardens such as these were plainly inspired by Italian examples,<sup>1</sup> and the Italian Renaissance garden was a close copy of the description

<sup>1</sup> Here again a distinction must be drawn between the earlier Italian garden, such as that described in the text, and the later examples, such as those of the Villa d'Este.

left by the post-Augustan writers, and more particularly by Pliny the younger. Pliny's account of his Tuscan villa abounds in architectural details, such as garden-houses adorned with marble and painting, fish-ponds and fountains in marble, and marble seats ; and Pliny, in describing the general lie of his house and grounds, uses the words *amoenitas tectorum*—a phrase curiously suggestive of the sweet, low lines of an Elizabethan manor-house. Clipped work, chiefly in box, is often mentioned in this account. The *xystus*, a space in front of the garden portico, was spaced out with box-trees, cut to various shapes, while the ground between was covered with figures of animals, set out flat on the ground, in clipped box. The paths were marked out with box edgings, and the intervening plots were filled either with grass or with box, cut into various devices, and sometimes in letters giving the name of the master or of the designer. In some of the paths stood obelisks, in others apple-trees, arranged alternately.<sup>1</sup> The resemblance between these details and a sixteenth-century garden is close, and it is to this source that we should look for the origin of shaped or cut work. The *topiarius*, or pleacher, was a very important person in the Roman garden, and the practice of cutting trees into various shapes was

<sup>1</sup> "Viae plures intercedentibus buxis dividuntur, alibi pratulum, alibi ipsa buxus intervenit, in formas mille descripta, literis interdum, quae modo nomen domini dicunt, modo artificis, alternis metulae surgunt alternis inserta sunt poma."—*Epistolae*, v. 6.

revived by the Italians of the fifteenth century. The beautiful woodcuts to the *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili* (Aldus, 1499) show several designs of cut work. Poliphilus dreams that he and Pollia are conducted over the island of Cÿthera; and some curious illustrations are given of the clipped box-trees in the enchanted garden. An English version of this book appeared in England in 1592; but by this time the habit of cutting box and yew and juniper into different shapes was well established in England. Bacon refers to it in his well-known *Essay on Gardens*, and the intricate hedge which was to surround his main garden implies clipping on a most elaborate scale. There is a curious contemporary account of the garden of Kenilworth in a letter from one of the officers of the Court to Master Humphry Martin, mercer, of London. This letter was written from Kenilworth in 1575, during Elizabeth's visit to the castle. In front of the castle was a terrace walk raised 10 feet above the garden, and 12 feet wide; at either end were arbours, "redolent by sweet trees and flowers," and along the balustrade, on the garden side, obelisks, spheres, and coats of arms in stone were set out at equal distances. Below this terrace was the garden, an acre or more in extent, divided into four quarters by fine sanded walks. In the centre of each plot rose an obelisk of red porphyry with a ball at the

top. The garden was planted with apple-trees, pears, and cherries. In the middle of the wall opposite the terrace was a great aviary 30 feet long, 14 broad, and 20 high; and in the centre of the garden a fountain of white marble rose out of an octagonal basin, "wherein pleasantly playing to and fro (were) carp, tench, bream, and for varietee perch and eel—a garden then so appointed, as whearin aloft upon sweet shadowed walks of terras, in heat of soomer, to feel the pleasaunt whisking wynde above, or delectable coolness of the fountain spring beneath, to taste of delicious strawberries, cherris, and other fruites even from their stalks."

Bacon's garden, which should be taken in immediate connection with the palace of the preceding essay, was to be divided into three parts—a green, with a straight path across the centre, and covered walks at the sides; then came the main garden, surrounded by an open arcade, with carpenter's work, with an "entire hedge of some 4 feet high above it," ornamented with little turrets and figures. In the centre of this garden was to be a mound, 30 feet high, and there was to be a banqueting-house, and fountains and tanks "finely paved," surrounded with images, and "embellished with coloured glasse and such things of lustre." Beyond this was to be "the heath" or wilderness, as it was afterwards called, a thicket of sweet-briar and honeysuckle, "and the ground set with violets,

strawberries, primroses, and the like low flowers, being withal sweet and sightly." The English garden became in the sixteenth century a much more important affair in every way than it ever had been before ; much money was spent on it, and great care given to its design. Bacon talks of 30 acres of ground as the minimum for a prince's garden. But, apart from this matter of size and elaboration, the only specific importations from Italy appear to have been the use of terraces and balustrades and great flights of stairs, and the free use of statuary ; a habit of mythological allusion in various parts of the garden ; and the practice of clipping trees into various shapes, and distributing them symmetrically. The alleys, green walks, and covered walks, the "*deambulationes ligneae horti*," the arbours, the knots or figures, labyrinths and mazes, the conduits, tanks, and fountains, and particularly, the enclosing walls and definite boundary lines, were only the development of features which had existed already in the mediæval garden. Some of the more extravagant fancies which were caught up in England in the first flush of the Renaissance were abandoned in the following century. One doubts if any "little Figures with broad plates of round coloured glasse gilt for the sunne to play upon," perched on the top of a high hedge, were ever used in the seventeenth century. Caprices of this sort obtained no permanent



hold in England—the national tradition was too sober to accept them—for in Bacon's own words they were "nothing to the true pleasure of a garden." And, again, it must be remembered that Bacon's essay can no more be taken as an accurate picture of the average garden of his time than his *Essay on Building* as a representation of an ordinary Elizabethan house. Both essays are ideal sketches, and Bacon's treatment is purely literary; with all its wealth of detail it is exceedingly difficult to work out any possible plan to fit the description given. The gardens at Moor Park, told of by Sir William Temple, were said to have been laid out on the lines of this essay—probably the designer was not careful to inform his client how much was due to Bacon, and how much to the designer—for when all is said, Bacon's ideas of design were those of the amateur. Gardens appealed to him only as so much literary material, and he wrote a very charming essay on the subject, knowing probably no more about it than any other gentleman of his time. His most elaborate treatise, the *Sylva Sylvarum*, deals with experiments and observations in horticulture, treated as one application of his system of philosophy; but the book has no relation to garden design at all.

Bacon, moreover, was not the first in the field with his *Essay on Gardens*. Borde and Thomas Hill had both dealt with the subject many years

earlier. Dr. Andrew Borde was an eccentric person of good education and abilities who was born in the latter part of the fifteenth century, and died in the Fleet in 1549. In the second chapter of a curious little book entitled the *Boke for to lerne a man to be wyse in buyldyng of his house for the health of his body, e to holde quyetnes for the helth of his soule and body*, etc., Borde discusses the question of "aspecte" and "prospecte." "My con-ceyte," he says, "is such, that I had rather not to buylde a mansyon or a house than to buylde one without a good prospect i to it i from it." The chief prospect is to be east, especially north-east, for the "est wynde is temperat, fryske, and fragrant." This remarkable character of the east wind is repeated by Hill, and was, as Markham pointed out, the result of borrowing wholesale from Italian writers, without either acknowledging the source or correcting their statements by local experience. "Furthermore," says Borde, "it is a commodious and a pleasant thing in a mansyon to have an orcharde of sundrye fruytes, but it is more comodyous to have a fayre garden repleatyd with herbes of aromatyke and redolent savoures; in the garden may be a poole or two for fysshe, yf the pooles be clene kept, also a park repleatyd with dere and conys is a necessary and a pleasant thyng"; and the country gentleman's residence is not complete without a "dove-cote, a payre of buttes for archery, and

a bowling alley." Thomas Hill was a voluminous writer who drew his materials mainly from Latin authors. In 1563 he published *A most briefe and pleasaunt treatyse teachynge how to dress, sowe, and set a garden, gathered out of the principallest authors in this art.* Hill refers to Pliny and Columella, and deals with aspect, with the choice of site, the qualities of the ground, fencing and enclosures; and to these are added some notes on the properties of plants and herbs, maxims as to the times and seasons to be observed in planting, and remarks on the signs of the zodiac. The book is a small octavo, printed in black letter, and Hill states that the "lyke, hitherto, hath not been published in the Englishe tungue." The first edition is lost. In 1568 he published a third edition under the title of *The proffitable Arte of Gardening*, with additions, treatises on bees, and "yeerly conjectures meet for husbandmen to know." Five subsequent editions of this book were published in the years 1574, 1579, 1586, 1593, 1608. Two woodcuts of designs for mazes are given—one circular in a square, the other square; these were to be formed, "with Issop and Thyme or Lavender Cotton spike masserome"; in each angle of the square was to be planted a fine fruit-tree, and "in the myddle of it a proper herber decked with Roses or else some fayre tree of Rosemary or other Fruite." The third edition also contains five

knots for thyme or hyssop. In 1577 a new book appeared, entitled *The Gardener's Labyrinth*, containing "a discourse of the gardener's life, etc., wherein are set forth divers Herbers, knots, and mazes, cunningly handled for the beautifying of gardens, etc., gathered

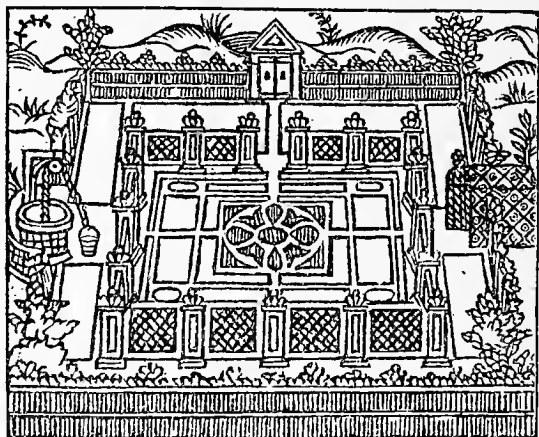


FIG. 5.—From *The Gardener's Labyrinth*.

out of the best approved writers of Gardening, Husbandrie, and Physicke, by Didymus Mountaine." It appears, from the dedication to Lord Burghley, that this book was edited by Henry Dethicke after the death of Mountaine. The book is nothing more than an enlarged edition of Thomas Hill's *Profitable Art*. Much of the text and several of the woodcuts

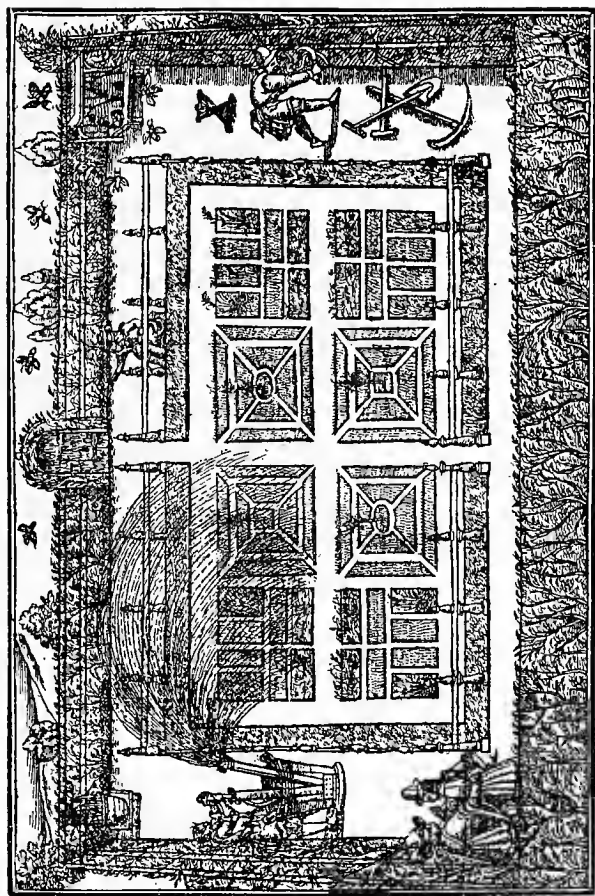


FIG. 6.—From *The Gardener's Labyrinth*.

are reproduced exactly, and it would seem almost certain that "Didymus Mountaine" is no other than Thomas Hill, and that Master Dethicke yielded to the temptation to exploit materials collected by another man. Dethicke or "Mountaine" leads off with a grand list of twenty-eight authors, in which "Vergile" appears between Palladius Rutilius and Didymus, and Hesiod stands next to Africanus. The first part deals with the garden, the second with the distillation of herbs. Some suggestions are given for the formation of arbours and labyrinths and the spacing of beds and alleys, but the greater part of the book is taken up with advice as to planting, and quotations from authors, such as "the skilful Rutilius," "the learned Democritus," "the worthie Pliny," and "the well-practised Apuleius." Generally speaking, the writer conceived of a garden as a small enclosed space, with a broad walk inside the wall on all four sides of a rectangular plot; and the latter was to be subdivided into a number of smaller plots divided by narrow alleys. The maze, or the labyrinth, or any of the various knots, would occupy one of the smaller plots. The book is written in a tedious style, and with much repetition. Its value consists in the light which it throws on the average English garden of the sixteenth century, as contrasted with the princely garden sketched by Bacon. A further point of interest in the book is its curious

superstition. The gardener is carefully to observe the moon and the aspect of the planets before he sows. Thus "the moone increasing and running between the 28 degree of Taurus and the xi degree of the signe Gemini, sow fine seedes, and plant daintie herbes ; but the moone found between the 28th degree of Gemini and the exit of Cancer (although she increase) yet bestow no daintie seeds in your earth." As a protection against hail, Mountaine suggests a device of Philostratus. You drag a "Marsh tortoise" round the garden on its back, and then place it still on its back on a little mound, carefully banking it up, so that the tortoise cannot tumble over or do anything but flap its legs. This is supposed to frighten away the hail. Thomas Hill mentions that a "speckled toad, enclosed in an earthen pot" was considered another good remedy.

Hill, like Bacon, was not a designer, or even a practical fruit-grower. Bacon wrote as a literary man, and Hill as a compiler of manuals. The first attempt to deal with the laying out of gardens in the light of actual experience was made by Gervase Markham, who set himself to write a complete account of the knowledge and accomplishments which became the country gentleman. Markham is English of the English, and the most delightful of writers. He had an amazing contempt for his predecessors, who, in writing on gardens, had

contented themselves with quoting from Latin and Italian writers, "whence it comes that our Englishe book knowledge in these cases is both disgraced and condemned, every one fayling in his experiments, because he is guided by no home-bred but a stranger, as if to read the Englishe tongue there were none better than an Italian pedant" (*The English Husbandman*). "Contrary to all other authors, I am neither beholding to Pliny, Virgil, Columella, etc. . . . according to the plaine true Englishe fashion, thus I pursue my purpose." As a matter of fact, his first treatise, *The Country Farm*, 1615, consisted mainly of translations from the French of Olivier de Serres. In regard to general arrangement of house and grounds, Markham gives a plan evidently based on the yeoman's house, such as is found in the Weald of Kent. The house was to be placed north and south. In front there was to be a small fore court enclosed with a fence, which might be replaced by a gate-house or terrace; at the back of the house was the base court, with a "faire large pond well stoned and gravelled in the bottom," in the centre. On the north side of the base court were the stables, cow-houses, and swine-cotes; on the south side, the barns and poultry-houses; on the west side, joining these two arms, the lodges, with cart-shed under. The garden was to be on the south side of the house. Markham gives separate rules for the garden



and the orchard, but they were practically laid out on the same lines. He further separates the kitchen garden from the garden of pleasure, and subdivides the latter into two parts: (1) The nosegay garden, to be planted with violets, gillyflowers, marigolds, lilies and daffodils, and "such strange flowers as hyacinths, dulippos, narcissus, and the like"; (2) the garden of herbs, set with southern-wood, rosemary, hyssop, lavender, basil, rue, tansy, all-good, marierome, pennyroyal, and mint. The garden, like the orchard, might either be laid out as a single square, subdivided by cross paths into four quarters, or as a series of squares, two, or three, or more, on different levels. In the latter case each square was to be raised 8 feet or so (he also says seven or eight steps) above the lower level, and to be reached by "convenient staires of state"; over this ascent "there might be built some curious and artificiall banqueting-house." A broad path would run round each square, with paths of the same width forming the four quarters, and in the centre might be placed "either a conduit of some anticke fashion, a standard of some unusuall devise, or else some Dyall or other Pyramid thet may grace and beautifie the garden." Both garden and orchard were to be surrounded with a stone or brick wall, if possible, or failing that, "a high strong pale, or a great ditch with quick-set hedge." All the quarters to the squares

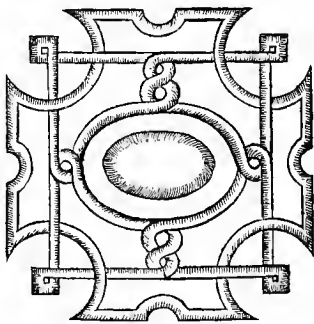
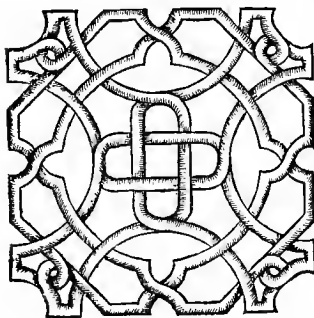
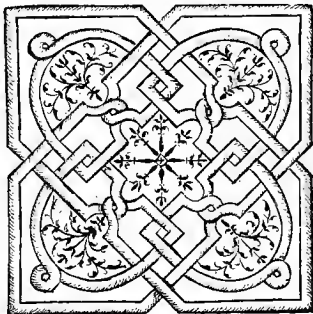
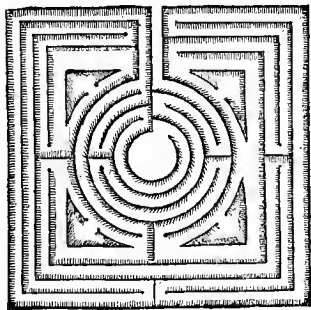
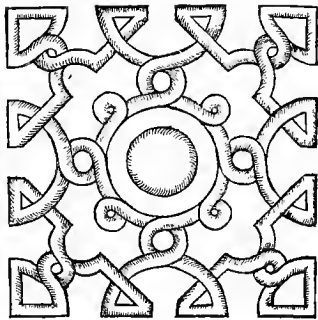
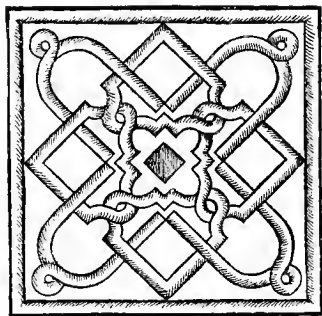


FIG. 7.—Knots from Markham's Country Farm.

should be planted differently, and a series of knots or interlacing figures are given, which were to be planted with germander, hyssop, thyme, pink gillyflowers, or thrift, with borders of lavender, rosemary, or box. The noticeable point in Markham's account of the gardens is the emphasis with which he insists on the necessity of ordered design, not only for all kinds of gardens, but for the orchards and fish-ponds as well. Everything is to be laid out in comely order. The kitchen garden is not to be a dreary wilderness of vegetables, but should have its broad trim paths, its borders of lavender or roses, its well or fountain, and even its arbours or "turrets of lattice fashion," as in the garden of pleasure. One finds no suggestion in Markham of "improving nature"; the point would never have occurred to him whether nature was to be improved or disimproved; but, on the other hand, one does find in him a genuine love of nature, of the music of birds, of the sweet scent of flowers and all their dainty colouring. His influence through the seventeenth century was considerable; several of his treatises were published in a collected form under the title of *A Way to get Wealth*, and this book went through fifteen editions, the last appearing as late as 1695, when the school of Le Nôtre was well in the ascendant.

William Lawson was a friend of Markham's,

and wrote, like the latter, out of his own experience. In 1618 he published *A New Orchard and Garden*, being, as he says in the title-page, "the labours of forty-eight years, more particularly in Yorkshire." Lawson seems to have lived in Holderness. An orchard with Lawson meant, in the strictest sense, an apple garden, for it was to be laid out with large walks, broad and long, having seats of camomile, and enclosed with walls or moats, and to have borders and beds of sweet flowers, and cut work in "lesser wood," mazes, and bowling alleys, and a pair of butts; and "one chief grace that adornes an orchard, I cannot let slippe; a brood of nightingales, who with their several notes and tunes, with a strong delightful-  
some voyce out of a weake body, will bear you company night and day . . . the gentle robbin red-breast will helpe her, . . . neither will the silly wren be behind in Summer, with her distinct whistle (like a sweet Recorder) to cheere your spirits." Lawson lays it down as a matter of course that a garden should be square, and gives some designs for knots for the square beds in *The Countrie Housewife's Garden*, 1617. The kitchen garden and flower garden should be divided, but you are not to neglect beauty in the kitchen garden, and you may therefore make "comely borders to the beds, with Roses, Lavender, and the like." The most delightful chapter in *The New Orchard* is that

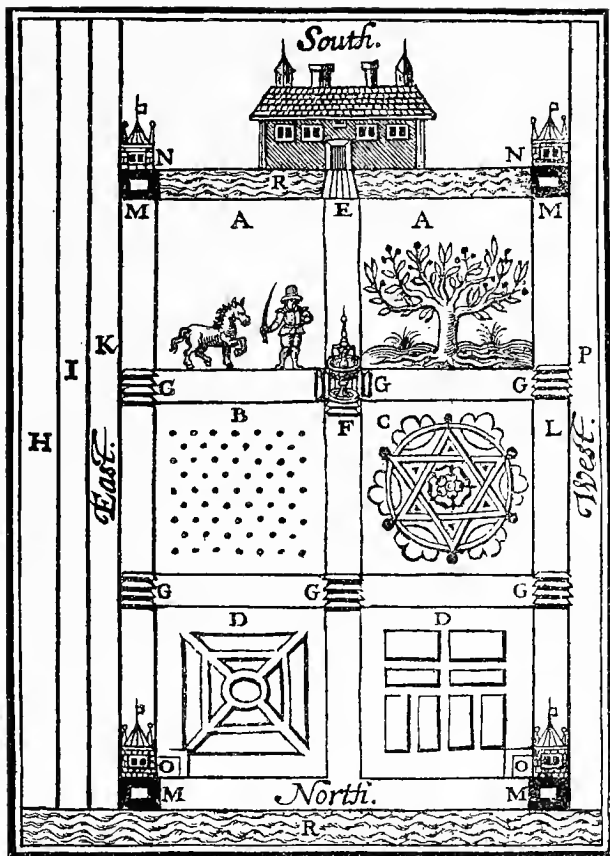


FIG. 8.—From Lawson's *New Orchard*.

A. All these squares must be set with trees; the gardens and other ornaments must stand in spaces betwixt the trees and in the borders and fences.

B. Trees 20 yards asunder.

C. Garden knot.

D. Kitchen garden.

F. Conduit.

H. Walkes set with great wood thicke.

I. Walkes set with great wood round about your orchard.

K. The out-fence.

L. The out-fence set with stone fruit.

M. Mount. To force earth for a mount or such like, set it round with quick, and lay houghs of trees strangely intermingled, tops inward, with the earth in the middle.

N. Still-house.

O. Good standing for bees if you have an house.

P. If the river run by your doore and under your mount it will be pleasant.

which deals with the ornaments of the garden. The words seem instinct with the sweetness and simplicity of the old-world garden. Lawson is a writer for whom one forms a personal affection. He is less precise and business-like than Bacon, who wrote of these things as an accomplished man of the world ; Lawson is altogether more sincere and unworldly, his humour is gentler, his style more gracious and musical, and he wrote with a sense of what is beautiful in nature which could only come from long musings among the flowers and many a leisurely hour in the trim alleys of his garden. Of a sense so delicate as this, Bacon was incapable. "What can your eye desire to see, your eare to heare, your mouth to taste, or your nose to smell that is not to be had in an orchard with abundance and beauty? What more delightsome than an infinite varietie of sweet smelling flowers? decking with sundrye colours the greene mantle of the earth, the universal mother of us all, so by them bespotted, so dyed, that all the world cannot sample them, and wherein it is more fit to admire the Dyer than imitate his workmanship, colouring not only the earth but decking the ayre, and sweetening every breath and spirit.

"The rose red, damaske, velvet, and double double province rose, the sweet muske rose double and single, the double and single white rose, the faire and sweet scenting woodbind

double and single ; Purple cowslips and double cowslips, primrose double and single, the violet nothing behind the best for smelling sweetly, and a thousand more will provoke your contente, and all these by the skill of your Gardener so comely and orderly placed in your Borders and squares."

Lawson's work is typical of the most charming side of the Renaissance in England, of its delight in flowers and birds, and all rare and beautiful things in art and nature ; but Bacon's weight of intellect bore down this subtle delicate instinct, and the treatises on this subject for the next fifty years follow the lines of *The Sylva Sylvarum* rather than *The New Orchard and Garden*.

## CHAPTER III

### THE FORMAL GARDEN—*continued*

It has been usual in dealing with gardens to include some account of the numerous Herbals which were published in England in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Strictly speaking, these lie outside the scope of my subject; the Herbals are little more than *catalogues raisonnés* of the various fruits and flowers grown in England at the time, with notes on their medicinal qualities, and instructions as to the proper times and methods of planting. This has nothing to do with garden design. As, however, the distinction between garden design, horticulture, and botany was never very clearly made, I give the dates of the principal Herbals.

Mr. Hazlitt gives a complete list of the bibliography of gardening, but, as will appear from the titles of the works there mentioned, for the next fifty years after Lawson's book, nearly all the treatises which are not Herbals



deal with horticulture. *The Great Herbal*, from the French, was first published in 1516; *The Little Herbal*, from the Latin, in 1525. Cary's *Book of the Properties of Herbs*, and Macer's *Herbal* were published about 1540; Ascham's *Little Herbal*, 1550; Turner's *Herbal*, 1551 to 1568; Lyte's translation of Dodoens's *Herbal*, 1578; John Gerard's *Herbal* in 1597; John Parkinson's well-known book, *Paradisi in Sole Paradisus Terrestris, The Garden of Pleasure*, was published in 1629. His *Herbal* or *Theatre of Plants* followed in 1640. Gerard had a famous physic garden in Holborn, near Ely Place, overlooking the Fleet. This was one of the earliest of the botanical gardens which reached such a high pitch of perfection in the latter half of the seventeenth century, as, for instance, the well-known Botanical Garden at Oxford which was founded and presented to the University by the Earl of Danby in 1632. A botanical garden and museum was kept in South Lambeth by John Tradescant. Isaac Walton gives some particulars of the Tradescants. The grandfather and father were gardeners to Queen Elizabeth, the son to Charles I. The father and son travelled over Europe and the East in search of plants, and the son is said to have travelled in Virginia for the same purpose. His *Catalogue* was not published till 1662. The collection formed by the Tradescants was purchased by Mr. Ashmole, who gave it to

the University of Oxford, and it thus became the basis of the Ashmolean collection. In lists of garden books of this period the name of Sir Hugh Platt often occurs, and the titles of his books, *The Garden of Eden* and *Flora's Paradise* raise expectations which are uniformly disappointed. Platt says he will not trouble his readers with rules for the shaping and fashioning of an orchard—"every Drawer or embroiderer, nay, almost each Dancing-master, may pretend to such niceties," and having thus demolished the necessity of such a poor thing as the designer, Platt unfolds his own learning in a meagre string of amateur notes on plants. Platt was only a dabbler in science, and from our point of view stands on a very different footing from such men as Markham and Lawson. Both of the latter were thoroughly familiar with the garden, not only as practical gardeners, but as designers of gardens. They do not appear to have had any special training in design, but they were evidently familiar with the accepted methods of garden design, and there is an important difference between the country gentleman of the seventeenth century and his successor in the nineteenth. The latter has little traditional knowledge of design, and the arts of design form no part of his education, whereas the English gentleman from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century did possess a general traditional knowledge of design and of the

principles which govern it. He was not better educated, but he succeeded to an excellent way of doing things as the result of many generations of experience and uninterrupted development, instead of having to choose between half a dozen different ways, with all of which he is equally unfamiliar. It was thus that, in the seventeenth century, the country gentleman might be able to lay out his own garden, because, with trifling variations, he laid it out on the same lines as his father and his grandfather before him.

In more important work, however, there seems little doubt that the architect, or rather the architect builder, as he usually was, designed the grounds as well as the house, and this continued to be the custom till the days of Capability Brown. Du Cerceau, in the plates of his *Les Plus Excellents Bastiments*, gives quite as much attention to the gardens as to the palaces; and in all books of illustration throughout the seventeenth century, house and grounds are shown as a whole. There is a small plan of a house and garden by John Thorpe in the Soane Museum, which shows a square house, with courts in back and front, and garden at the side, divided into four main plots, subdivided into smaller knots and squares. On the back court is written a note "nothing out of square." John Thorpe died early in the seventeenth century. The distinction of all these earlier seventeenth-century garden plans

is the extreme simplicity of their arrangement. However rich the details, there is no difficulty in grasping the principle of a garden laid out in an equal number of rectangular plots. Everything is straightforward and logical; you are not bored with hopeless attempts to master the bearings of the garden. The old gardens at Wilton, designed by Isaac de Caux, were laid out in three divisions, each divided into two by a broad path running down the centre, with cross paths running to the outer walks. Isaac de Caux, or Caus, was a German architect, resident in England in the early part of the seventeenth century, and in the employment of the Court. He laid out the gardens at Wilton for the Earl of Pembroke, and published a series of twenty-six copper-plates to illustrate these gardens in detail, with the following description :—

“ This Garden, within the enclosure of the new wall is a thousand foote 'long and about Foure hundred in breadthe divided in its length into three long squares or parallelograms, the first of which divisions next the building, heth ffoure Platts, embroydered; in the midst of which are ffoure fountaynes with statues of marble in their midle, and on the sides of those Platts are the Platts of flowers, and beyond them is the little Terrass rased for the more advantage of beholding those Platts, this for the first division. In the second are two Groves or woods all with divers walkes, and through those Groves passeth the river Nader having of breadth in this place 44 foote upon which is built the bridge of the breadth of the greate walke. In

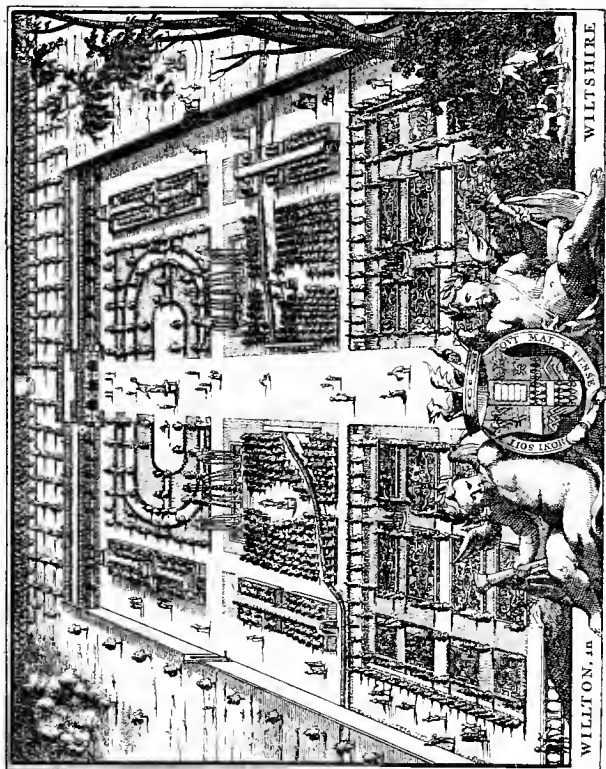


Fig. 9.—Wilton, from De Caux.

the midst of the aforesayd Groves are two great statues of white marble, of eight ffoote high, the one of Bacchus and the other Flora, and on the sides ranging with the Platts of fflowers are two covered Arbors of 300 ffoote long and diverse allies. Att the beginning of thee third and last division, are on either side of the great walke, two Ponds with Fountaynes and two Collumnes in the midle, casting water all their height which causeth the moveing and turning of two crownes att the top of the same and beyond is a Compartment of greene with diverse walkes planted with Cherrie trees and in the midle is the Great oval with the Gladiator of brass ; the most famous Statue of all that antiquity hath left. On the sydes of this compartiment and answering the Platts of flowers and long arbours are three arbours of either side with twining Galleries communicating themselves one into another. Att the end of the greate walke is a Portico of stone cutt and adorned with Pilasters and Nyches within which are 4 ffigures of white marble of 5 ffoote high. On either side of the sayd portico is an assent leading up to the terrasse upon the steps whereof instead of Ballasters are sea monsters casting water from one and the other from the top to the bottome, and above the sayd portico is a great reserve of water for the grotto."

De Caux was superseded, both at Court and in the employment of the Earl of Pembroke, by Inigo Jones. James I. had a French gardener in his employment named André Mollet, who came of a family of famous garden designers. His father was said to have invented the *jardin brodé*, and wrote a book entitled *Le Théâtre des Plantes et Jardinages*, for which André Mollet supplied designs. These and other designs by Mollet were published at Stockholm in 1651, as *Le Jardin de Plaisir*,

*contintant plusieurs dessins de jardinage, tant parterres en Broderie, compartiments de gazon, que Bosquets et autres.* On the title-page of this book Mollet is described as "Maistre des Jardins de la sérénissime Reine de Suède."

The period from the outbreak of the Civil War to the Restoration is, comparatively speaking, a blank in the history of the arts. Evelyn records the destruction of part of the gardens at Nonsuch by the Puritans; writing in 1666, he says: "There stand in the garden two handsome stone pyramids, and the avenue planted with rowes of faire elmes; but the rest of these goodly trees both of this and Worcester Park adjoyning, were felled by those destructive & avaricious rebels in the late war, which defaced one of the stateliest seats his Majesty had." No one did more than Evelyn to encourage the study of horticulture in England; he wrote treatises and translations<sup>1</sup> himself, and induced Worlidge and others to write on the subject; but though fully alive to the beauty of a well-designed garden, he paid less attention to the question of garden design, foreseeing, perhaps, the chaos which was to follow the interference of the man of letters in the eighteenth century. It seems that Evelyn did contemplate a book on garden design, under the title of *Elysium*

<sup>1</sup> *The English Vineyard*, 1663; *Sylva*, 1664; *Kalendarium Hortense*, 1666; *The French Gardiner*, translated by J. E., 1672; *Of Gardens*, by Rapin, translated by J. E., 1673; *The Compleat Gardener*, De la Quintinye, translated 1693; *Directions concerning Melons*, 1693.

*Britannicum*. This work would have been a most exhaustive treatise. It was to have consisted of three books—the first dealing with the soil of the garden and the seasons, the second with garden design under twenty-one heads, the third with the means of producing rare species, distilling, and various miscellaneous points. I give in an appendix a complete list of the subdivisions. Unfortunately Evelyn never carried out his intention; but the titles left by him are important, as showing how Evelyn conceived of a garden, and the clear distinction which existed in his mind between garden design and horticulture.

With the Restoration a change came over the designs of the larger English gardens. Charles II. was in intimate relations with the brilliant Court of Louis XIV., at a time when the latter was in the full swing of his magnificence, and when architects such as Mansard and Perrault were seconded by a designer of such remarkable genius as Le Nôtre. The noble paths and terraces, the great avenues and masses of foliage, the broad expanse of grass and water in which Le Nôtre delighted, became the fashion in England. Whatever faults Le Nôtre may have had (and to the landscapist he represents all that is detestable), he was at least a man of large ideas and scholarly execution. He carried the art of garden design to the highest point of develop-



ment it has ever reached, and this by no violent reform or blundering originality, but by profound thought on the lines laid down by his predecessors. Something of the grandeur of Le Nôtre, some flavour of his lordly manner, spread to England, and for the next fifty years or so the grounds of the great noblemen's country-houses were laid out on a scale compared with which even Bacon's 30 acres seems a trifling affair; for Le Nôtre had covered 200 acres with gardens at Versailles, and the great terrace which he built at St. Germain-en-Laye is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile long and 115 feet wide. There is a story that Le Nôtre actually came to England to lay out the grounds of Greenwich and St. James's Parks; but there appears to be no evidence of this. There is a plan of the palace and grounds of St. James's in Kip's book. The gardens covered the whole of the space now taken up by Marlborough House and Carlton House Terrace, and terminated in a grove laid out as a *patte-d'oie*, or goose foot, on the site now occupied by the offices of the London County Council and other buildings. A straight canal bordered by double rows of trees extended from the Chelsea Gate to opposite the Tiltyard. The only vestige of the original laying out is the quadruple avenue which runs from Buckingham Palace to Spring Gardens. It is also doubtful whether Le Nôtre personally had anything to

do with Hampton Court, but it is plain that the general arrangement of the grounds in front of Wren's Buildings was due to his influence, and it is known that the great *Fountain Garden* was first laid out for Charles II. The enormous semicircle, with the three radiating avenues and the great centre canal, the intricate *parterres de broderie*, shown in Kip's view, and above all, the masterly conception of the grounds as a whole and in strict relation to the architecture of the palace, were certainly inspired by the influence of Le Nôtre, if not actually due to his design. There is no mention or any indication of the use of avenues on this scale before the Restoration. Indeed, Worlidge, whose book was published in 1677, specifically says: "It was not long since our choicest avenues were first planted with those ornamental shades that now are become common." There is therefore good reason for assigning the origin of this feature to French influence. Individual avenues were, of course, in use before this date. Switzer says: "About the reign of Queen Elizabeth of immortal memory we may suppose some of the old avenues and walks adjoining noblemen's houses were planted." These, however, should be distinguished from the system of avenues radiating from one centre which was now introduced from France.

The landscape gardener of the following

century, and his far less able followers in this, have had ideas of modifying a landscape by planting trees here and there or in clumps, or by throwing out woods, or by many more of their favourite devices for "chastening nature's graceful touch"; but their ideas are paltry when contrasted with the comprehensive scale on which designers went to work after the Restoration. The main avenue at Bushey Park, 1 mile long and 60 feet wide, with a row of chestnuts next the road, and four rows of limes on either side, with the great "Diana" basin at Hampton Court, 400 feet diameter, was carried out by Wise in 1699 at a cost of £4300. Very few of these gigantic schemes remain intact, though there is a notable instance on the Boughton estate, near Kettering, where one suddenly finds one's self in the presence of avenues miles away from the house to which they relate. Part of the original laying out of the grounds of Wrest in Bedfordshire remains, and there are, of course, many instances of isolated avenues. Fortunately, however, four publishers—Mortier, Midwinter, Overton, and Smith—took it into their heads to publish a series of elaborate double plates in folio, illustrating the great country seats of England at the end of the seventeenth century, under the title of *Britannia Illustrata*. The drawings for this series were made by a man named Knyff,<sup>1</sup> of

<sup>1</sup> Knyff was a painter of dogs and poultry, who died in 1721; Jan

whom little is known, and were engraved on copper by John Kip. The book was published in 1709, though many of the drawings were made much earlier, and is absolutely invaluable for a knowledge of the method of laying out gardens and grounds on a large scale at the end of the seventeenth century. Kip's book, Badeslade's *Views of Kent* (1772), and another book named *Les Délices de la Grande Bretagne*, are in fact almost the only sources of information available, as very few of these great schemes remain intact. The park and gardens at Badminton are a typical instance. Kip gives three views of Badminton—the illustration in the text is taken from the smaller print in *Les Délices*, 1727. The approach to the house was formed by a triple avenue, the centre avenue 200 feet wide, the two side avenues 80 feet wide. The entrance gates to this avenue were placed in the centre of a great semicircular wall. The distance from this gateway to the house was  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles. After passing through two more gateways, the avenue opened on to a great oblong open space forming part of the deer park, with avenues on either side, and the entrance gate to the fore court of the house opposite the end of the main avenue. A broad gravelled path, with grass plots and fountains on either side, led from the

Kip was born in Amsterdam in 1652. He came to England soon after the Restoration, and engraved views for Atkyns's *Gloucester Survey*, and Badeslade's *Views of Kent*. He died in 1722.

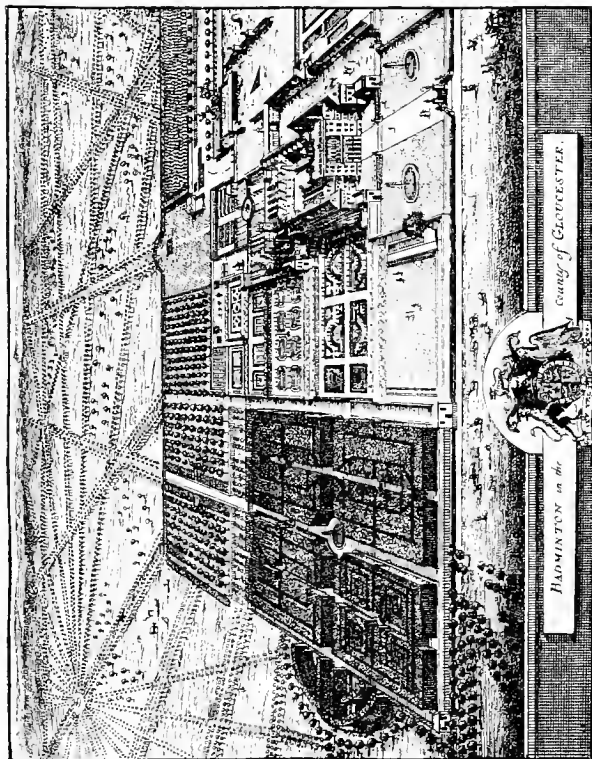
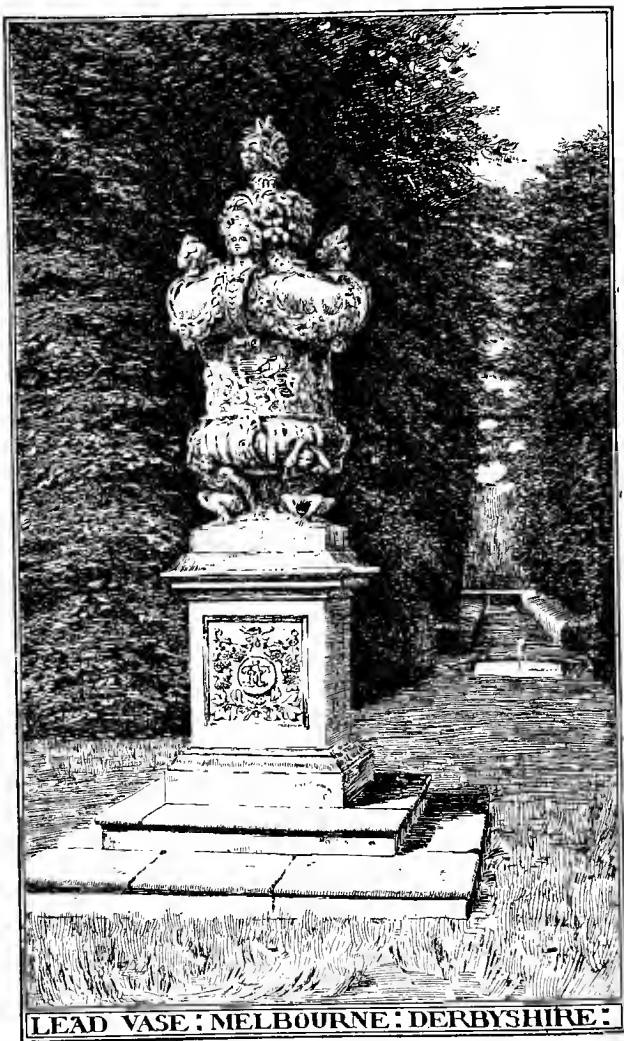


FIG. 10.—Badminton, from *Les Délices de la Grande Bretagne*.

entrance gate of the fore court to a flight of four steps leading to the pavement in front of the house. Kip's view shows a coach and six approaching the entrance gate, apparently not on the road but on the grass of the park. To the right hand was the base court, with stables and outhouses; at the back of the house the kitchen and fruit gardens and the pigeon-house. To the left of the house and fore court were the bowling-green and pleasure gardens, with the grove beyond. The latter was divided into four plots, with four-way paths and a circular space and fountain in the centre. Each of the plots was planted with close-growing trees laid out as mazes, and trimmed close and square for a height apparently of some 15 to 20 feet from the ground. Opposite the centre alley was a semicircular bay divided into quadrants, each quadrant with a basin and fountain and great square hedges trimmed to the same height as the rest of the grove. The whole of these immense gardens were walled in, with the exception of a fence round the grove. Wide gates were set at the ends of all the main paths, and from these, as points of departure, avenues were laid out in straight lines, radiating and intersecting each other in all directions. If Kip's figures are correct, some of these avenues, which extended beyond the park to the villages in the adjacent country, were 6 or 7 miles long. As shown on plans these avenues look bizarre

and unattractive, but in actual fact—that is, when the trees are fully grown—their effect is very fine. And here, again, the straightforwardness, or what one might call the honesty of the formal method is clearly shown. If a landscape is to be altered, it may just as well be altered frankly; and these designers, liking long lines of trees and the vistas of great avenues, planted their straight lines without any affectation that the work was nature's. At the same time this practice was, perhaps, the first sign of the coming decadence. It was a failure in that strictly logical system which separated the garden from the park, and left the latter to take care of itself—a system which frankly subordinated nature to art within the garden wall, but in return gave nature an absolutely free hand outside it. These avenues and rides were an attempt to manipulate the face of an entire countryside, and gave a point of departure to the futilities of Brown and the improvers of nature in the following century.

Generally speaking, the influence of Le Nôtre and his school showed itself in the increased scale of English gardens, and in greater elaboration of detail. The gardens of Melbourne Hall, in Derbyshire, are a perfect instance of the French manner in England on a moderate scale. These gardens were remodelled and considerably enlarged for Thomas Coke, afterwards vice-chamberlain to George I., from



LEAD VASE : MELBOURNE : DERBYSHIRE :



designs by Henry Wise between 1704 and 1711. The older garden appears to have consisted of a terrace, with two levels below it and red-brick walls on either side. The lower wall was probably removed, and an extensive *bosquet* or grove planted, with a great water-piece and several smaller fountains. Long alleys with palisades of limes were formed, and an amphitheatre of limes, with vistas radiating in all directions from a superb lead urn in the centre. The ground is of irregular plan, but the difficulties are met by the design in a most masterly manner. Some alterations were made in the garden about fifty years ago. Otherwise the original design is substantially perfect, and is a very valuable instance of a garden laid out when the French influence was still dominant in England. This influence, however, was practically limited to the grounds of men of large estate, and the gardens of the smaller gentry were laid out on a much less costly scale, and without any great departure from traditional lines. The gardens of Doddington, in Lincolnshire, or Dunham Massie, in Cheshire, as presented by Kip, show little or no French influence; and the small gardens shown in Logan's views of the Colleges of Oxford and Cambridge might have been laid out by Gervase Markham or William Lawson himself. The Oxford and Cambridge gardens most effectually meet the objection to the

formal style that it requires great space. Unfortunately, the original design has been destroyed in all these gardens, but their main dimensions have not been altered, and Logan's views give a very accurate idea of their general character.<sup>1</sup>

Meanwhile, there was a vigorous revival in the literature of gardens. Little or nothing

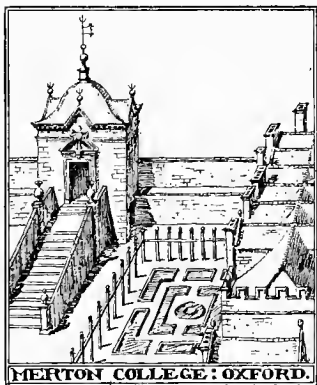


FIG. 12.—From Logan.

had been written on the laying out of gardens since the time of Markham and Lawson. In 1665 appeared *Flora, Ceres, and Pomona*, by John Rea, Gent. The greater part of this book is taken up with descriptions of flowers, plants, and fruit-trees, and horticultural notes. But

the introduction to the first book contains some account of the proper ordering of a "garden of delight,"—that is, of the Fruit garden and the Flower garden. Rea wrote his book in his old age, and after forty years' practice as a planter of gardens, and though he describes his work as a "Florilege" and an innovation on the old method of the Herbal, with a sly dig at

<sup>1</sup> Logan's *Oxonia Illustrata*, 1675; *Cantabrigia Illustrata*.

Mr. Parkinson by the way, he was a thorough-going adherent of the old school of design. He speaks with some contempt of "gardens of the new model" laid out with good walks and grass plots, and fountains, grottoes, statues, etc., but destitute of flowers, probably referring to some bad applications of French ideas. Rea did Le Nôtre injustice in implying that his method made no use of flowers; Madame de Sévigné, writing to her daughter in 1678, about Le Nôtre's work at Clagny, says, "Vous connaissez la manière de Le Nostre . . . ce sont des allées où l'on est à l'ombre, et pour cacher les caisses" (for the orange-trees) "il y a, de deux côtés, des palissades, à hauteur d'appui, toutes fleuries de tuberoses, de roses, de jasmins, d'œillets; c'est assurément la plus belle, la plus surprenante et la plus enchantée nouveauté qui se puisse imaginer." The garden which Rea contemplated was, of course, walled in. He talks of 40 yards square as the proper size for a private gentleman's fruit garden, and half this size for his flower garden. The flower gardens were to be laid out in simple geometrical patterns, for which he gives sixteen excellent designs which show no trace at all of French influence. In 1670 appeared *The English Gardener*, by Leonard Meager, the third part of which deals with "the ordering of the garden of pleasure, with variety of knots and wilderness work after the best fashion." He gives a

few diagrams of knots and designs for quarters, but says very little to the purpose on garden design. In 1697 Meager published another book entitled *The New Art of Gardening*, but both his works are inferior in value to the *Systema Horticulturæ, or Art of Gardening*, by J. W., Gent., published in 1677, "illustrated with sculptures representing the form of gardens according to the newest models." J. W. is John Worlidge. His work consists of three books, and describes the details of the garden with some minuteness. The shape of the garden, its general plan, its walls and fences, its walks and arbours, terraces, seats, pleasure-houses, fountains and water-works, statues, obelisks, and dials, are all successively dealt with, and followed by a systematic treatise on the flowers and trees with which the gardens should be planted. Worlidge repeated Rea's complaint as to the banishment of flowers, and the excessive use of sculpture in gardens, but his garden was perfectly formal and did not depart from the traditional lines in any sense whatever. No serious change was introduced under William and Mary, except that the habit of clipping yew and box trees was carried to an excess that made it an easy prey for the sarcasm of Pope in the following century. The Dutch were fond of queer little trifles, and used to cut their trees into every conceivable shape. Switzer says that "this fashion was brought

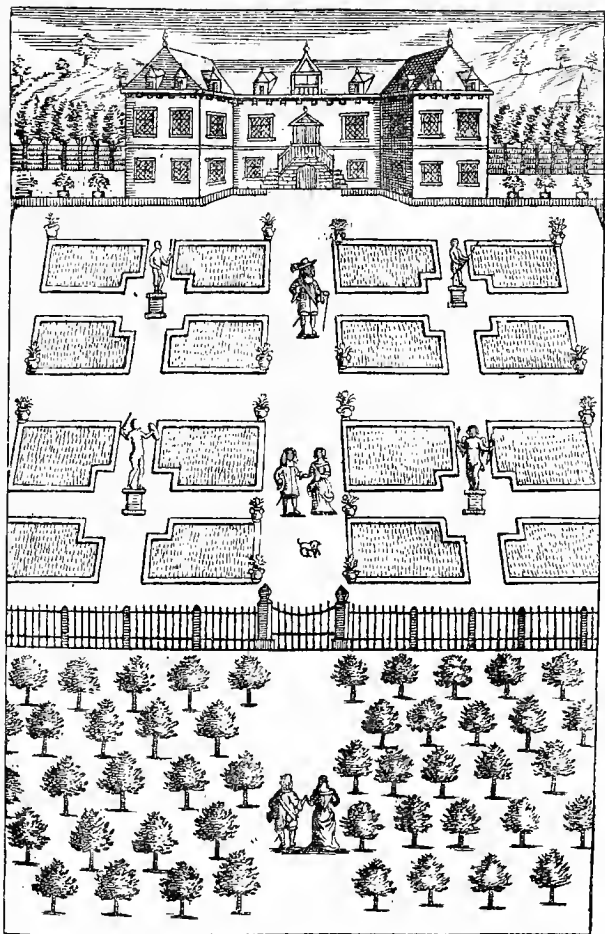
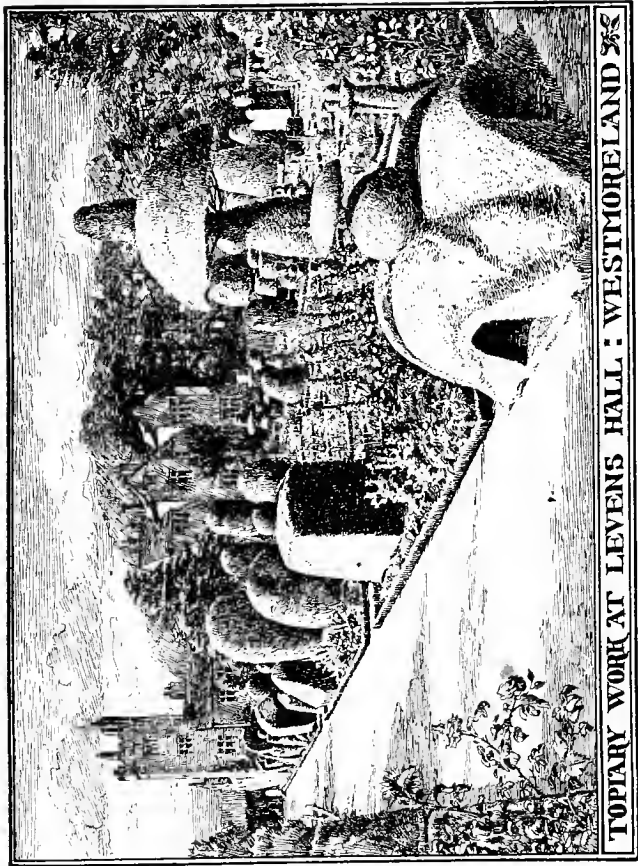


FIG. 13.—A Garden, from J. Worlidge.

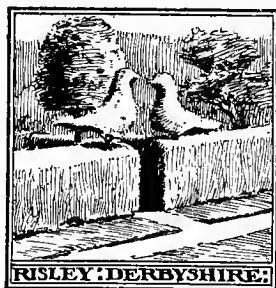
over out of Holland by the Dutch gardeners, who used it to a fault, especially in England, where we abound in so good grass and gravel"; but Switzer is inaccurate here, for the custom of "pleaching" was an old one in England. It now, however, developed into a positive mania for cocks and hens and other conceits in yew and box, and for little clipped trees spaced symmetrically along the sides of the walks, as they are shown in nearly all Kip's views, and particularly in the views of Wimple and Staunton Harold. In the latter there is a suggestion of a whole menagerie in clipped work along the sides of the great basin. Peter Collinson notes that "the gardens about London in 1712 were remarkable for fine cut greens and clipt yews in the shape of birds, dogs, men, ships, etc." The curious cut work in the gardens of Levens Hall, in Westmoreland, is a well-known instance. This garden was planted early in the eighteenth century, and is evidently a deliberate copy of a Dutch model. The difference between the French influence and the Dutch is very well shown by the contrast between the gardens of Melbourne and Levens; there is something a little childish about the latter. In the garden of Risley Hall, in Derbyshire, there is a charming instance of cut yew—two doves about 7 feet long billing each other form an archway in a yew hedge; but the most remarkable instance still exists at Packwood, in Warwickshire, where



TOPIARY WORK AT LEVENS HALL : WESTMORELAND 28

FIG. 14.

the Sermon on the Mount is literally represented in clipped yew. At the entrance to the "mount," at the end of the garden, stand four tall yews 20 feet high for the four evangelists, and six on either side for the twelve apostles. At the top of the mount is an arbour formed in a great yew-tree called the "pinnacle of the temple," which was also supposed to represent Christ on the Mount overlooking the evangelists, apostles, and the multitude below; at least, this account of it was given by the gardener, who was pleaching the pinnacle of the temple.





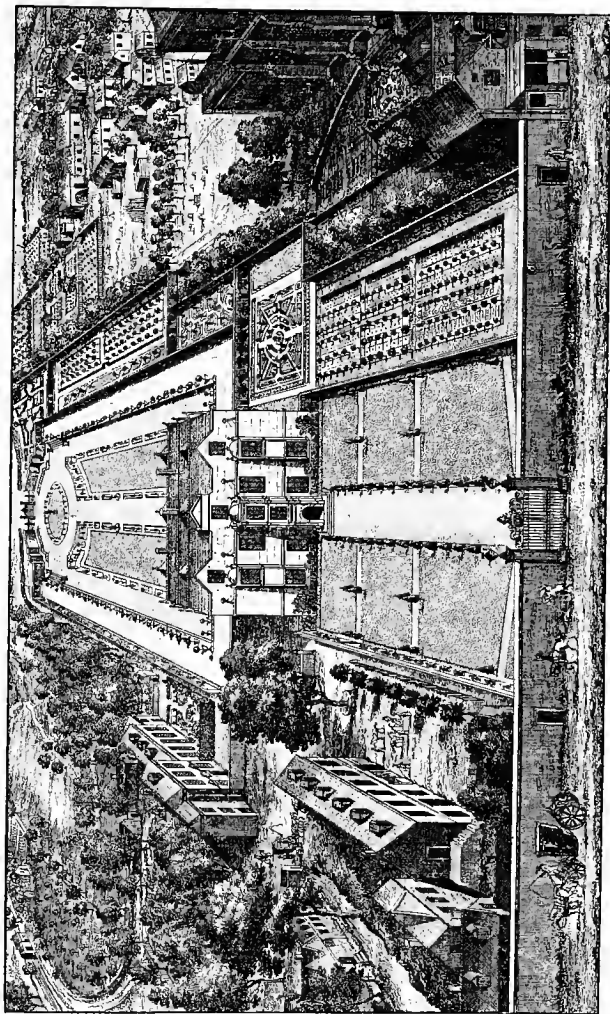


## CHAPTER IV

### THE END OF THE FORMAL GARDEN AND THE LANDSCAPE SCHOOL

WHEN William and Mary began their reign gardening was already the fashionable hobby. Charles II. had patronised it in his casual manner: he began the great semicircle at Hampton Court and the gardens and park of St. James; and for fifty years we find a succession of famous gardeners. Rose, who had studied under Le Nôtre, was gardener to Charles II.; London was pupil to Rose, and Switzer pupil or servant to London and Wise. The great nursery at Brompton, which, in the following century, was estimated to contain plants to the value of £30,000 to £40,000, was founded by a company of these men—London, gardener to

Compton, Bishop of London, Cook to the Earl of Essex, Lucre to the Queen Dowager at Somerset House, Field to the Earl of Bedford. According to Switzer, this firm laid out the gardens at Longleat, each of the partners staying there one month in turn. Lucre and Field died, and London bought out Cook, and shortly afterwards took Wise into partnership. George London and Henry Wise were the two most celebrated English gardeners of their time. London was "superintendent of their Majesties' gardens" at £200 a year, and a page of the backstairs to Queen Mary. Besides the royal gardens, the firm directed most of the great gardens of England. Hampton Court, Kensington Gardens, Blenheim, Wanstead, in Essex, Edger, in Herts, and Melbourne, in Derbyshire, were among their principal works. London seems to have fallen out of favour with Queen Anne. Switzer says, "Queen Anne (of pious memory) committed the care of her gardens in chief to Mr. Wise, Mr. London still pursuing his business in the country." London used to divide his business into circuits, spending six weeks on his northern circuit, and riding 50 to 60 miles a day; and it appears from a flaming advertisement, published by Evelyn at the beginning of his translation of *De la Quintinye*, that London and Wise undertook garden design of all sorts, as well as horticulture. Switzer, who had his own advertisement to make, speaks



*G. Aylmer delin. et sculp.*

FIG. 15.—From Atkyns's Gloucestershire.

in rather disparaging terms of London's power as a designer. Both London and Wise seem to have been taken by the Dutch manner, though London, at any rate, had seen the great French gardens, and in his design for the gardens of Melbourne, 1704, he was much more influenced by French than by Dutch examples. In 1706 London and Wise published *The Retired Gard'ner*, a translation from *Le Jardinier Solitaire*, and a treatise of the Sieur Louis

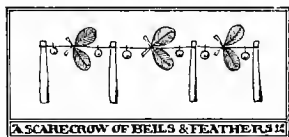


FIG. 16.—From London and Wise.

Liger of Auxerre, with corrections by the translators. The only substantial addition which London and Wise made

to this book was a description of the garden laid out by them for Marshal Tallard<sup>1</sup> at Nottingham. London died in 1713. He lived just long enough to see all the boxwork at Hampton Court, which he had planted for William, pulled up by Queen Anne.

Another translation from the French appeared in 1712, entitled *The Theory and Practice of Gardening, done from the French Original, by John James of Greenwich*. It is not known who wrote the original. It has been attributed both to D'Argenville Dezalliers and to Le Blond, pupils of Le Nôtre. Le Blond seems the more probable author. James does not appear

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix II.

to have known anything about its authorship, for the original was published anonymously in 1709; but he inclined to think that it was written by an architect. The translation was published by subscription of the principal nobility and gentry of the time. It is illustrated with excellent engravings of the various parts of the formal garden, and contains by far the most valuable account ever published of the system of garden design as practised by the school of Le Nôtre. That system was now so completely matured that it was capable of being reduced to rules of practice, with the necessary consequence that its break-up was imminent. In 1718 appeared *Ichnographia Rustica, or the Nobleman's, Gentleman's, and Gardener's Recreations*, by Stephen Switzer, gardener. The writer of this book evidently supposed that he was developing the traditions of formal gardening; but he had, in fact, lost touch of its essential principle—the principle that the garden within its enclosure is one thing, and the landscape outside it another, and that no attempt should be made to confuse the two. He devised a system of what he called “rural and extensive gardening,” by which a garden of 20 acres should look to be 200 or 300. Walls and fences were to be removed, and woods and even cornfields made to appear part of the garden scheme. He urged that “those large sums of money that have been

buried within the narrow limits of a high wall upon the trifling and diminutive beauties of greens and flowers (should be) lightly spread over great and extensive parks and forests." The designs which he furnishes are very intricate and tedious. He points out that his system "cashiers those interlacings of boxwork and such-like trifling ornaments" (and apparently flowers as well), and there is some ugly cant about "natural and polite gardening," which is ominous of what was to follow. Indeed, the change was now fairly on the way. Bridgeman, another well-known gardener of the time who succeeded Wise as gardener to George I., abandoned "verdant sculpture," as Horace Walpole calls it, though he still trimmed his hedgerows. The abuse and perversion of the good old custom of pleaching was a sign of decay. Garden design had reached the full development of which it was capable by the end of the seventeenth century; it was growing stereotyped; it became familiar, though incomprehensible, to the man of letters and the amateur, and the latter at once set to work to pull it to pieces.

It now became the fashion to rave about nature, and to condemn the straightforward work of the formal school as so much brutal sacrilege. Pope and Addison led the way, with about as much love of nature as the elegant Abbé Delille some three generations later.

Addison began the attack in *The Spectator*,<sup>1</sup> with the following extraordinary argument :—We may assume, he says, that works of nature rise in value according to the degree of their resemblance to works of art. Therefore works of art rise in value according to the degree of their resemblance to nature. Gardens are works of art. Therefore they rise in value according to the degree of their resemblance to nature. Therefore in laying out a garden we are to copy nature as much as possible. This is a concise statement of the whole fallacy of the landscape gardener. In this curious argument the first half of the major premiss begs the question ; we do not value nature by the standard of art ; but even if this was true, the deduction from it of the second proposition is an inference from what is true under conditions to what is true absolutely, and the entire argument based on this amounts to a fallacy of the ambiguous middle, for the term “work of art” is used here both for “works of art” in the ordinary sense and for work which is mechanical, that is made by man as distinct from nature. Pope, the most artificial of writers, followed suit in *The Guardian*<sup>2</sup> with a witty catalogue of objects cut in yew-trees, supposed to be for sale, which included “a St. George in box, his arm scarce long enough, but will be in a condition to stab

<sup>1</sup> *The Spectator*, No. 414, 25th June, 1712.

<sup>2</sup> *The Guardian*, No. 173, 1712.

the Dragon by next April," and "a quickset hog shot up into a porcupine through being forgot a week in rainy weather." This was an excellent sarcasm on an admitted extravagance, and the formal school had undoubtedly run riot with their pleaching and statuary; but this was not so much due to the system as to the fact that garden design had slipped out of the hands of cultivated designers and been monopolised by the nursery gardener. The latter, as Addison pointed out, would naturally destroy an old orchard, or anything else, however beautiful, in order to reduce his stock of evergreens and plants. The "natural" manner of gardening now became the rage. Pope turned his 5 acres at Twickenham into a compendium of nature, and was considered to have shown admirable taste by condensing samples of every kind of scenery into a suburban villa garden. Even the architects were not true to their colours. Batty Langley published a sumptuous book on *The New Principles of Gardening*, the value of which consists chiefly in its paper and binding; but Kent, who really was an architect of ability, was the great renegade. It seems almost inconceivable that a man such as Kent, who could design fine and severe architecture, should have lent himself so abjectly to the fancies of the fashionable amateur. No doubt he had to make his living, and the fashion was too strong for him. Kent was something



of a painter as well as an architect, and he set to work with both hands, as it were, on garden design ; for while with his T-square and compasses he would design indifferently Grecian temples, Anglo-Saxon ruins, or Gothic churches for the grounds, he proceeded to form landscape compositions on the most heroic scale that surely has ever entered the head of any painter, for the solid earth was to be his canvas, and the trees water and rocks his paints. With these materials he endeavoured to the best of his ability to reproduce the landscapes of Claude and Poussin ; but he signally failed of his purpose, for instead of the classical breadth and repose of those great masters, the whole result was fussiness. According to Sir William Chambers, "Our virtuosi have scarcely left an acre of shade, or three trees growing in a line, from the Land's End to the Tweed." Chambers himself published his *Dissertation on Oriental Gardens* in 1773. This led, however, to little result beyond the use of light trellis work for verandahs and the backs of garden seats. This is how Walpole, most elegant of gushers, describes Kent's work : "Selecting favourite objects, and veiling deformities by screens of plantations, he realised the composition of the greatest masters in painting. The living landscape was chastened and polished, not transformed." The chastening of nature was rather severe, for we find that it consisted in wholesale destruction of trees, alteration

— of ground, building up of rocks, and, for a crowning effort of genius, in planting dead trees “to heighten the allusion to natural woods.” He might as well have nailed stuffed nightingales to the boughs. As Scott said of him: “His style is not simplicity, but affectation labouring to seem simple.” Kent’s great work in gardens was Stowe in Buckinghamshire. These gardens were begun by Bridgeman with some approach to style, but Kent obliterated every trace of it. He so contrived his views and prospects that at every turn appeared a fresh *tour de force*. After inspecting the Hermitage, the Temple of Venus, the Egyptian Pyramid, and St. Augustine’s Cave, built of roots and moss, and adorned with indecent inscriptions, the amazed spectator would proceed to the Saxon Temple, the Temple of Bacchus, Dido’s Cave, the Witch House, the Temple of Ancient and Modern Virtue, the Grecian Temple, the Gothic Temple, and the Palladian Bridge, not to mention many other monuments of minor interest, while at every point inscriptions were at hand to tell you what to admire and to supply the appropriate sentiments. Shenstone, at Leasowes, was even more solicitous for his visitors, for in places of more than ordinary interest on his farm he would put a Gothic seat “still more particularly characterised by an inscription in obsolete language and the black letter.” This was the practical result of the

process described by Walpole in a sentence, which is probably his masterpiece in claptrap : "Kent leapt the fence and saw that all nature was a garden."

Kent was followed by "Capability" Brown, who began as a kitchen gardener, but took the judicious line that knowledge hampered originality. He accordingly dispensed with any training in design, and rapidly rose to eminence. Brown's notion of a landscape consisted of a park encircled by a belt of trees, a piece of ornamental water, and a clump—the latter indispensable ; and on these lines he proceeded to cut down avenues and embellish nature with the utmost aplomb. He died in 1783, and was succeeded by Humphrey Repton and other professors of landscape gardening, who between them irrevocably destroyed some of the finest gardens in England. Two instances will show the taste of these men. One of them advised, as an improvement to Powis Castle, that a precipitous rock in front of the Castle with a stone balustraded terrace and stairs should be blown up, in order to make a uniform grassy slope to the Castle ; and in Repton's *Landscape Gardening* appears the following remark : "The motley appearance of red bricks with white stone, by breaking the unity of effect, will often destroy the magnificence of the most splendid compositions," and he accordingly recommends that the bricks should be covered with plaster

and stone colour. The unutterable dulness of the English Country House of the early part of the last century is suggested here in all its wearisome pedantry. The effort aimed at seems to have been a sort of correct respectability of colour, something which should not violate decorum. The garden front of Hampton Court is a sufficient answer to such a grotesque assertion. The principles of landscape gardening, or rather certain assumptions which do duty for principles, were first formulated by Thomas Wheatly, in his *Observations on Modern Gardening*, published in 1776, which became the standard book on the *Jardin Anglais*, and has, so far as any theory is concerned, remained so ever since. Wheatly further signalised himself by completely destroying the remains of the formal gardens at Nonsuch in 1786. Horace Walpole published an *Essay on Modern Gardening* in 1785, in which he repeated what other writers had said on the subject. This was at once translated and had a great circulation on the continent.<sup>1</sup> The *Jardin à l'Anglaise* became the rage; many beautiful old gardens were destroyed in France

<sup>1</sup> The *Jardin à l'Anglaise* was purely and simply what is now known as landscape gardening—a term which betrays its origin in the latter part of the eighteenth century. Certain writers have spoken of the landscape garden as “The English Garden,” but in point of fact till the middle of the eighteenth century a view of garden design precisely opposed to this prevailed in England as well as in other civilised countries of Europe. So far, therefore, as history goes, the older, that is the formal garden, has the real claim to be called the English garden. Curiously enough, Taine (*Voyage en Italie*), in a sketch of the Villa Albani, confuses the *Jardin Anglais* with the older garden.

and elsewhere, and Scotch and English gardeners were in demand all over Europe to renovate gardens in the English manner. It is not an exhilarating thought that in the one instance in which English taste in a matter of design has taken hold on the Continent, it has done so with such disastrous results.

It is not to be supposed, however, that this new view of gardening took immediate and complete possession of England. Fashions travelled slowly in the eighteenth century, and many a formal garden in provincial towns and country places was laid out in the older style as late as the beginning of the nineteenth century. The terrace and great staircase of Prior Park, near Bath, designed by Wood, the architect, is one of the finest examples still in existence in England of garden architecture ; and the terrace at Brympton, in Somersetshire, is said to have been constructed in the early part of last century. Moreover, men of real cultivation began to resent the destruction of places which for them, at least, were instinct with scholarly associations, and the cant and fallacies of the landscapist were too transparent to pass unchallenged. Sir Uvedale Price, a man of independent views and considerable intelligence, was perhaps the first to see the error of his ways. In his essay on *The Decorations near the House*, he tells of an old garden of his own, in two divisions, all walled in, with terraces and summer-house and

rich wrought-iron gates. This garden he destroyed, with no pleasure to himself, as he confesses, and with no motive except that of being in the fashion. He says that he succeeded at much expense in making his grounds like anybody else's and like the fields outside, but lost for ever the seclusion, the charm, the distinction of his old-fashioned garden. Price advocated a threefold division—the garden immediately round the house was to be formal, the garden beyond to be in the landscape style, and the park to be left to itself. His idea was that the transition should be gradual, and this idea was worked upon by Sir Charles Barry in laying out the gardens of Trentham Hall and other places. This, however, seems to me to show a misapprehension of the intention of the formal garden as a matter of design. Instead of the transition being gradual, there should be no question where the garden ends. As Price himself pointed out, half the charm of the older garden was its contrast with the surrounding scenery, the clean line of demarcation given by a good brick wall, or at least an iron railing on a low brick plinth, with the background of the trees beyond. As for the vaunted ha-ha, it is little better than a silly practical joke, and in point of fact was not invented by Kent at all, but was known to the French designers of the seventeenth century, for the ha-ha is named and described as a common feature in gardens in

*The Theory and Practice of Gardening*, 1712. The last word of protest was written by Sir Walter Scott. In 1827 he wrote a paper on "Gardens" for *The Quarterly*, which appeared in 1828 as a review of Sir Henry Stewart's *Planter's Guide*. In this he pointed out the irreparable folly of destroying these formal gardens, and the fallacy of claiming for landscape gardening that it was loyal to nature; or that Milton, who of all men loved the formal garden, was in any sense identified with the introduction of landscape gardening. The paper contains a charming description of the garden of Barncluith, in Lanarkshire, an old garden of the eighteenth century laid out by one of the Millars, "full of long straight walks, betwixt hedges of yew and hornbeam, which rose tall and close on every side." Scott also describes an old garden at Kelso which he first saw in 1783. In his journal for 29th August 1827 he notes that "the yew hedges, labyrinths, wildernesses . . . are all obliterated, and the place is as common and vulgar as may be. In 1829 Felton published his *Gleanings on Gardens*. Since that date the question of garden design seems to have lost interest for the public. An article appeared in *The Quarterly* in 1842 on London's *Encyclopædia*, and a paper in *The Carthusian* for 1845. The writer of the latter essay supported the old formal garden with a wealth of scholarly allusion, and the same ground was taken up by Mrs.

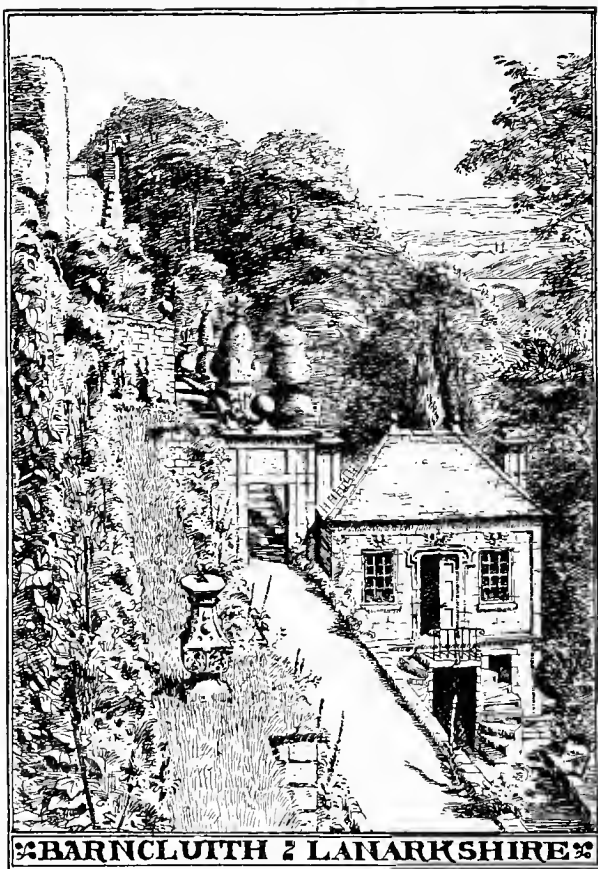


FIG. 17.



Francis Foster in a charming little book called *The Art of Gardening*, published in 1881, and in the well-known writings of E. V. B. Until quite recently little attention has been paid to the formal garden.<sup>1</sup> The landscape gardener has had it all his own way, so much so that he has ceased to think it necessary to lavish that abuse on the formal school which used to be the regular preface to his dissertations. Some very successful attempts, however, in formal gardens have been made within the last forty years. Arley and Penshurst are well-known instances. The latter was laid out by Lord Delisle, and is perhaps one of the most beautiful gardens in England or anywhere else. Of contemporary designers it would be unbecoming to speak, but the late George Devey and W. Eden-Nesfield ought to be mentioned as architects who made a deliberate and very successful effort to design the house and grounds in relation to each other, and this principle, carrying with it the full appreciation of the formal method of gardening, is now generally accepted by those who consider that architecture is a fine art, and not a mere matter of business or building police.

Looking generally at the history of gardening in England, one cannot but admit that the disappearance of formal gardening and the

<sup>1</sup> Since the date when this was written (1892) several writers have dealt with gardens, and a valuable series of illustrations, "Gardens Old and New," has been issued by the proprietors of *Country Life*.

chaos which followed was due to the abuse of the system itself. The note of warning uttered by Rea and Worlidge was not heeded. The designer became so intent on showing his skill in design that he forgot that a garden is a place for real flowers and grass, and not for conventional flowers mapped out on the ground in different coloured sands. Some of the designs for parterres in James's translation are melancholy instances of perverted taste. Formal gardening fell into its dotage, and the vanity of technique overpowered the reserve and sobriety and genuine love of nature which guided the earlier masters, and this was the justification, in fact, of the violent change that occurred in the eighteenth century. But the change was thrust upon us by people who not only had no sympathy with the older system, but by their absence of training were quite unqualified to judge whether that system was good or bad. The consequence was that the good went down with the bad, and the fundamental principle of the relation between the garden and the house was completely lost sight of, though that principle had been accepted as a matter of course throughout all the greatest periods of English art.



## CHAPTER V



### THE COURTS, TERRACES, WALKS

THE advice given by the earlier seventeenth-century writers as to sites does not precisely agree with the instances still in existence. Markham, in his *Country Farm*, advises that the house and garden should be placed on high ground, just under the brow of a hill for preference, with an east aspect, or a south aspect "borrowing somewhat of the east, for the winds blowing from those quarters are drie, more hot than cold, but very wholesome, as

well for the body as for the spirit of man." Thomas Hill had already made the astounding statement that the east wind is hotter than the west, simply transcribing from Latin and Italian writers. Both writers advise against placing the house on low ground, or near moats or standing water. Lawson, however, advised that the orchard should be planted on low ground by a river, and this was repeatedly done in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Great noblemen's houses, such as Wollaton, Bolsover, and Hardwick, were sometimes built on the tops of hills, but men of lesser means seem to have liked the shelter of low-lying ground, and the custom of placing the house on the highest and most conspicuous part of the estate was not fully established till the end of the eighteenth century.

Markham's arrangement of house and grounds has been described in the second chapter, and the general principle of it remained unaltered till the introduction of landscape gardening. In front of the house was the fore court, walled in on every side, with an entrance in the centre, opposite the door of the house; on one side was the base court, or bass court, as it came to be called, which included all the stables and farm-buildings; on the other side were the pleasure gardens, with a terrace along the side of the house, as at Montacute, and at the back of the house the fruit and kitchen gardens.

This arrangement, however, was by no means universal. The fore court and one or more bass courts nearly always existed, but their relative positions were modified to suit the necessities of the site. In old prints and drawings it is not always easy to classify the courts. James, in his *Theory of Gardening*, distinguishes between the fore court, the castle court or house court, and the bass courts, and this is a very convenient classification. The house court is the court immediately in front of the house, surrounded on three sides by the centre block and two wings of the house. The fore court is the court or courts in front of this, giving access from the entrance to the house court. The bass courts are the courts to the right or left of the fore court, or on both sides of it, or even at the back of the house, comprising the stables and inferior buildings. Kip's views show several different arrangements of the courts. The house court was usually paved over its entire surface, or two square grass plots were left with broad flagged paths round the sides and down the middle. This court was raised above the fore court, and separated from it by a balustrade or an iron railing on a dwarf wall, with a flight of steps opposite the central path. Fine instances existed at Badminton and Newnham Paddox, in Warwickshire, and at Bretby, in Derbyshire, now destroyed. Kip's view of the latter shows a wide paved path the full width of

the centre bay of the façade, with grass plots on either side spaced out with standard-trees in cases. At Althorp the house court was separated from the fore court by a moat, with a bridge opposite the outer entrance to the fore court. In some instances, and particularly in the case of houses built after the middle of the seventeenth century, a terrace running along the front of the façade took the place of the house court, as at Chatsworth before it was altered, Wrest House, in Bedfordshire, Wimple, in Cambridgeshire, and the house of Sir W. Blackett at Newcastle (Kip, 54); and eventually, as the quadrangular plan for the house was abandoned, and the long symmetrical façade superseded the  or half  plan, the house court slipped out of use, and the fore court was brought up immediately in front of the entrance door of the house, as in old Burlington House (Kip, 29). Few instances remain of the house court proper, owing to the inconvenience of having to walk a considerable distance from the carriage to the front door; but examples of what are practically house courts still exist in old almshouses, as, for instance, in the almshouse at Etwall, in Derbyshire.

The fore court lasted well into the eighteenth century. The simplest form of a fore court is a square walled-in enclosure in front of the entrance door, with a gateway in the centre of the wall to the road, and either buildings or

rule they only exist where the house has been allowed to decay, and the court is so abundantly filled with apple-trees and gooseberry bushes, that it appears as nothing more than an ordinary kitchen garden in front of a tumbledown house. In larger houses the fore court was a very important feature. It extended at least the full width of the façade, but sometimes it was twice or three times that length. There was a grand fore court at Althorp, flanked by the stables on the left, and the gardens on the right ; the whole of the space in front of the house was gravelled ; to the right and left of this were two grass plots divided and surrounded by broad gravel paths. The entrance was usually in the centre, but in some cases, as in the Earl of Burlington's house at Chiswick (Kip, 30), the entrance was placed to one corner. At New Park, in Surrey (Kip, 33), the entrance was in the centre, but the walls on either side, instead of continuing the line of the gates, formed the side walls by reversed curves. At Bretby, in Derbyshire, the fore court was oblong, running the whole length of base court, house, and garden, with iron gates and grilles at each end, and a fountain in a semi-circular bay opposite the centre of the house ; a raised walk with a row of polled trees ran parallel to the fore court on the side to the house, and was separated from the house court by an iron grille. The fore court was often repeated, so that there were two or three fore

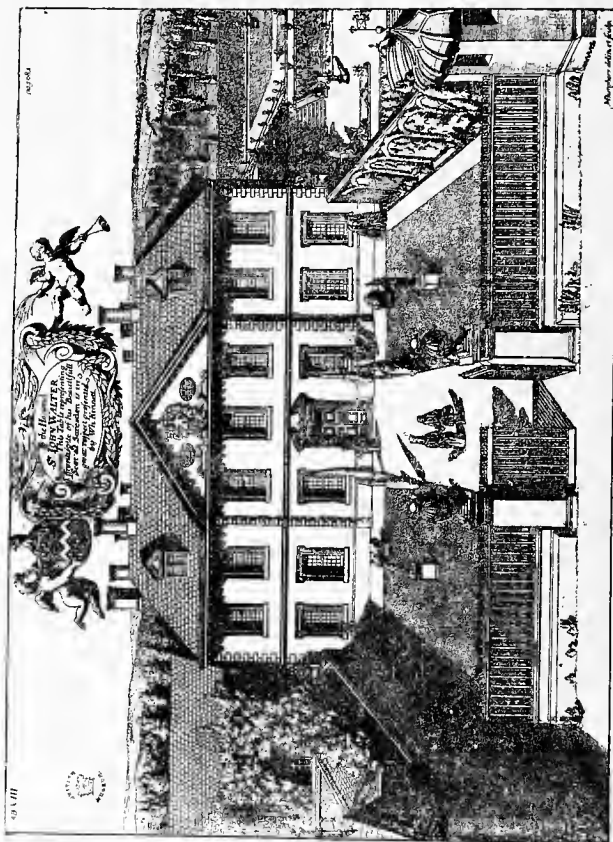


FIG. 19.—Saresden, from Kennett.



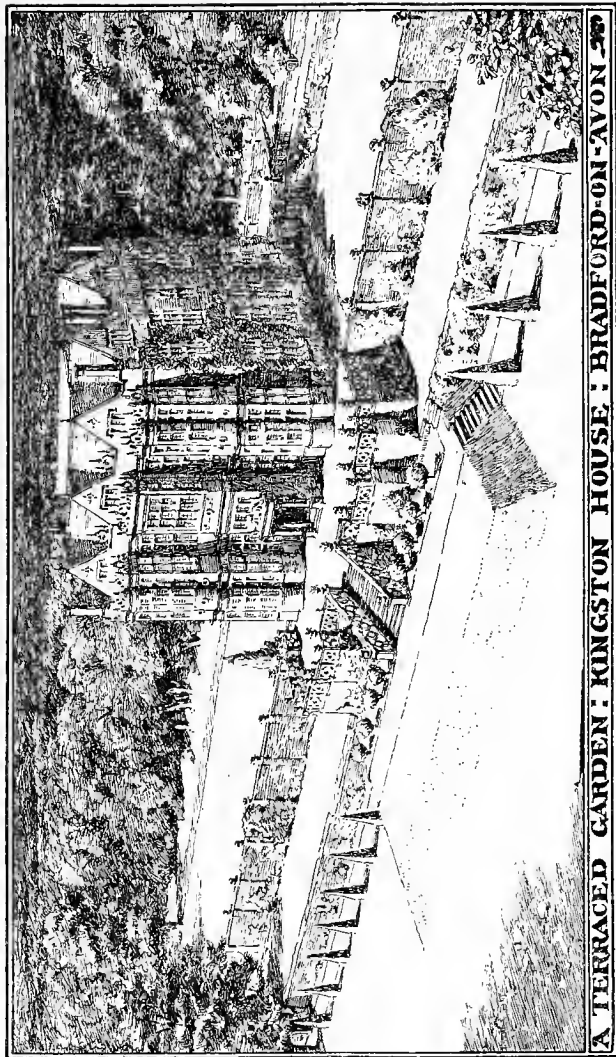
courts ; at Newnham Paddox there were three such courts with gateways leading from one to the other. At Orchard Portman there was an outer fore court separated from the inner fore court by a wall and two-storey gatehouse. Kip's view of the old gardens at Longleat shows a very remarkable fore court. The outer court was only separated from the park by a fence, with a wrought-iron gateway leading to the fore court proper. A broad flagged causeway led from the gates to the front door, with flights of fifteen steps leading to a lower terrace on either side in front of the house. The sides of this causeway were formed apparently with grass slopes ; on either side of it were grass lawns at a lower level than the terrace, with circular basins and fountains in the centre. The effect of such an arrangement must have been quite magnificent. The whole of it was swept away by Capability Brown ; and the utter insignificance of the present approach shows the full capacity for mischief of the landscape system. At old Eaton Hall the outer court was formed by a semi-circular wall, extending beyond the full width of the inner fore court sufficiently far to admit of gateways into the base courts on either side of the inner fore court. This is a simple and masterly plan. The fore court at Westwood, in Worcestershire, was laid out lozenge-wise, with a gatehouse in the centre and three-storey pavilions at the two angles. These instances

are enough to show that the fore court was not tied down to one uniform plan, but might be varied indefinitely to meet the conditions of the house and grounds. The house court was abandoned for the practical reason that it prevented a carriage drawing up at the front door ; but no such objection holds against the fore court. It gives privacy to the house, and when properly planned, provides a convenient means of grouping the stables and outbuildings with the main block of the house. Existing instances show that there is no reason why it should not be applied to small country houses as well as to big ones. Nothing can be meaner than the carriage-drive and rhododendron bed which usually form a miserable apology for a fore court proper. The advantages of a fore court where the ground is shut in by a road in front and buildings at the sides are obvious.

The terrace is admitted, even by the landscapist, to be desirable near the house. In the first place, it presents to the eye a solid foundation for the house to start from, and gives the house itself greater importance by raising it above the level of the adjacent grounds, and again it is healthier. There is something uncomfortable in the idea of a house placed flat on the ground or down in a hole. It need not necessarily be damp, but one always imagines that it will, and that the timber will decay, and the plaster moulder, and rats run over the floor ;

but when the house starts from a terrace it at least looks dry, and the terrace enables you to see the garden. The French author of *The Theory of Gardening* lays it down that there should always be a descent from the building to the garden of three steps at least. The main terrace was always placed to overlook the principal garden. This might be either to the back of the house or to the left or right of it, according to circumstance. It has been given as a rule for the width of such a terrace that it should be equal to the height of the house from the ground line to the eaves. This rule is so far good that it is likely to prevent those *petites manières mesquines*, against which the French author warned designers, but it is not borne out by existing instances. The great terrace at Montacute, which overlooks the west garden, is about 45 feet wide, which is much less than the height of the building. On the other hand, the north terrace at Versailles measures about 120 feet wide by 820 long; the terrace at Bolsover, in Derbyshire, about 300 feet long by 50 feet wide. The proportions of a terrace depend not only on the height of the building, but on the length of the terrace itself. In Marshal Tallard's garden the house terrace was 60 feet long by 14 wide. Switzer says the house terrace can hardly be too wide, and that, as a rule, in England they were much too narrow. He gives a plan of a terrace 100 feet

wide, but as it was to be divided into ten strips of grass, gravel, and paving, it can hardly be considered a terrace so much as a terrace garden. For the side terrace, he says, the width should not be less than 20 feet or more than 40. In *The Theory of Gardening*, a terrace, shown on the third plate, scales 40 feet wide to 190 feet long, which is not a very happy proportion. It is impossible to lay down any definite rule for the proportions of a terrace, but, generally speaking, the tendency is to make them too narrow. Another important consideration is the height of the terrace above the garden. On sloping ground this will probably determine itself; but where the terrace is almost entirely artificial, it is not much use making the level of the terrace less than 2 to 3 feet above the garden, and, for effect, the higher the better, within certain limits. Where, however, the fall of the ground is very sudden, it is best to make the terrace in two levels—that is, an upper and a lower terrace, communicating by flights of stairs. At Kingston House, Bradford-on-Avon, the difficulty is got over in a very skilful way. The house is raised 12.0 above the lower garden; in front of the house is a terrace 24 feet wide, with a flight of fourteen steps in the centre, descending to a grass platform with mitred slopes. The path runs to right and left, and descends to the lower garden by flights of seven steps; off this path, on either side of the



A TERRACED GARDEN : KINGSTON HOUSE : BRADFORD-ON-AVON 25

FIG. 20.

terrace walls, two steps ascend to grass terraces, 27 feet wide and 52 paces and 29 paces long respectively, which run under the walls of the upper gardens to right and left of the house. The terrace should be made with a slight fall away from the house of about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches in 10 feet.

The side of the terrace to the garden may be formed either with brickwork or masonry, or with a grass slope. Details of the first will be given under the head of Garden Architecture. Where a grass slope is used, the point to aim at is to keep the verge of the terrace well defined, and to ensure this the slope of the bank should form an unmistakable angle with the ground both at its top and its base. A gradually curved slope is useless; it defeats the whole purpose of the terrace by merging it into the garden, and where the landscape gardener uses a slope he makes it much too flat. Switzer gave  $2\frac{1}{2}$  horizontal to 1 perpendicular for the slope, on the ground that anything steeper than this cannot be mowed or rolled. This is a useful proportion, and admits of a staircase at the same angle as the slope of the bank, with steps of 6 inches rise and 15 inches tread; flights of steps at a steeper angle than this are unsatisfactory out of doors, except under special conditions. The proportion generally used by the French gardeners of the seventeenth century was  $\frac{2}{3}$  to

1<sup>1</sup>—that is,  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the height for the horizontal length of the slope; but it was also made on the diagonal of the square, and in some cases at an angle still more obtuse, in order to prevent the moisture running off too quickly, and save the grass along the top from withering in summer. As a matter of fact, these slopes are too steep to be practicable in England—the grass will not grow satisfactorily except on a rather flat slope, and if it does it is a difficult matter to keep it trim. Moreover, when it comes to the steps all sorts of difficulties arise in the attempt to reconcile the angle of the steps with the angle of the bank. If the terrace involves much made ground along the outer edge, care must be taken to build up the earth, to prevent its slipping down. *The Theory of Gardening* advises the following practice:—“After having laid the earth 1 foot high, beginning at bottom, you must spread upon it a bed of Fascines, or Hurdles (made of willow), 6 foot wide, in rows one against another, and dispose them so that the great ends or roots may lie next the face of the slope, and come within a foot of the surface; then lay another bed of earth upon this, and continue the same to the top. Over this wattled work you lay the turf, after covering it with a little earth.” A method of strengthening banks somewhat similar

<sup>1</sup> *The Theory and Practice of Gardening.*

to this is recommended by William Lawson. The terrace next the house was either gravelled or paved. A splendid instance of a paved terrace, the full width of the garden, existed at Longleat, and several others are shown in Kip.

Besides the terrace next the house, a terrace was often formed parallel to it at the opposite

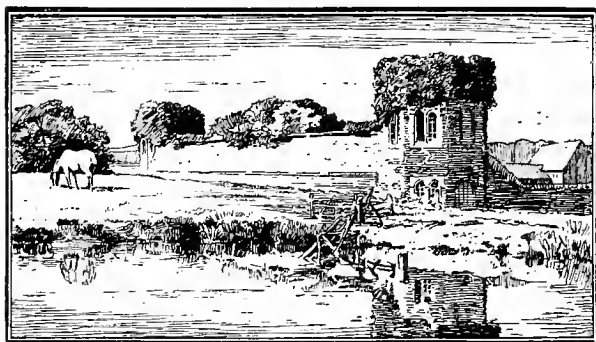


FIG. 21.—Hales Place.<sup>1</sup>

end of the garden. In the earlier gardens of the seventeenth century this was almost invariably done. In the gardens described and figured by Markham and Lawson, the “mount,” or raised walk at the end of the garden, with garden-houses at either end, was an indispensable feature. There is a good example of this in

<sup>1</sup> Hales Place, or Place House, Tenterden, was a seat of the Hales family. It is now a farm-house, and is usually called Place House.



ruins, dating from the middle of the sixteenth century, at Place House, near Tenterden, in Kent. The garden, which is all walled in, measures 47 paces wide by 92 long. It is now a grass field. At the end of the garden opposite to the house is a raised walk with brick retaining wall on the garden side, and a wall 8.0 high on the outer side of the walk. The walk is 16 feet wide, 5.0 high above the garden level, and 41 paces long. It is reached by a flight of nine steps in the centre from the garden. At each end of the walk are octagonal garden-houses in two storeys, the ground floor entered from the garden. On six sides of the houses there are two light windows with four-centred heads. The ground floor is paved with bricks ; the first floor has a wood floor, and the walls are plastered. All the details are in brick, with mouldings worked in plaster to look like stone, and evidently date from before the middle of the sixteenth century. At Brickwall, in Sussex, there is a grass walk 9 feet wide and about 130 feet long, with seats at either end, which separates the garden from the park ; this is raised six steps above the garden. At Rycott, in Oxfordshire, there existed a magnificent raised walk along the top of a one-storey building, surmounted by a balustrade. This was reached by double flights of steps from the garden, with an elaborate pavilion raised on the terrace opposite the steps. Every vestige of

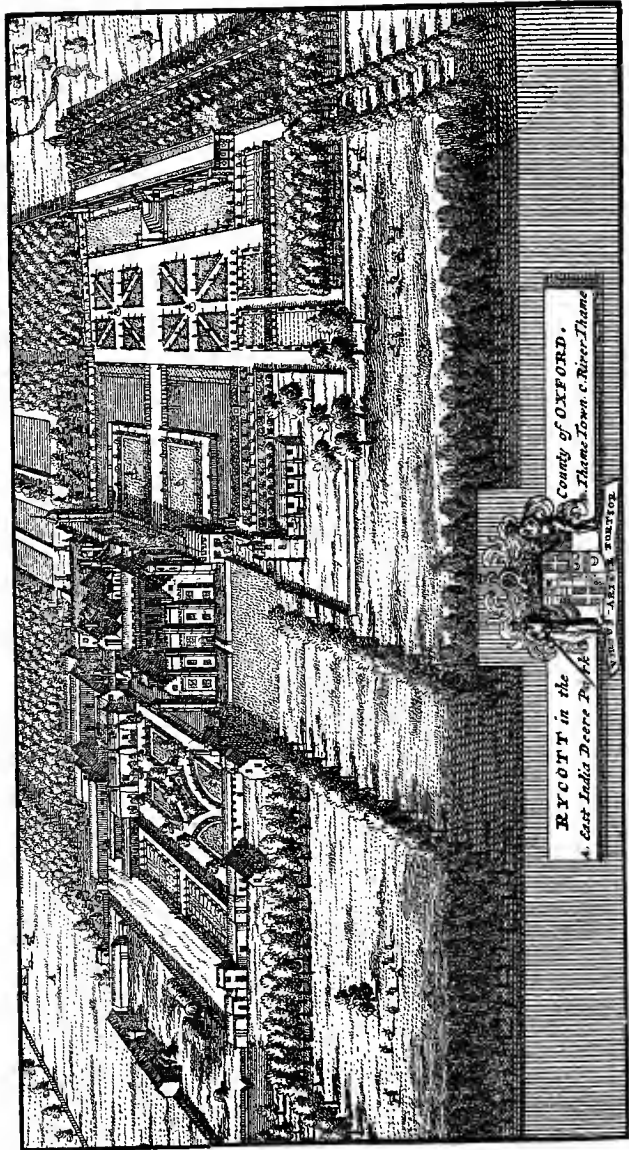


FIG. 22.

this garden has disappeared but one old cedar. The terrace was frequently continued round the two remaining sides of the garden, so that a commanding view of the garden is got from every side, as at Montacute. In this garden the terrace next the house has a wall on the garden side. The other three terraces are formed with a grass slope to the gardens and flights of steps in the centre of every side. At Brickwall there is a rather unusual variation. There is no terrace in front of the house, but a paved brick path with flights of six steps at either end communicates with a raised walk 8.9 wide, which runs round the other three sides of the garden. The garden itself is raised three steps above the level of the path in front of the house. Raised walks, as described above, are shown in Logan's views of Corpus Christi, Cambridge, and Balliol and Oriel at Oxford. Bowling-greens were usually surrounded by raised terraces, and in important gardens terraces or causeways were sometimes laid out across the middle of the garden to enable the parterres to be properly seen. There is a good instance of this in the Privy Garden at Hampton Court, also at Packwood, and at Ven House in Somerset. Switzer says these terraces should be raised between 2.6 and 3.6 above the garden. The terrace at Risley, in Derbyshire, is at some distance from the house, and runs along one side of the garden and beyond it. The terrace is separated from



THE TERRACE: RUSLEY HALL: DERBYSHIRE

the garden by a long narrow piece of water, which was probably dug out to form the terrace. The terrace rises some 9 feet above this water, with a retaining wall of masonry and a heavy stone balustrade above it. It is reached from the garden by a flight of seven steps rising over the bridge, with a rather elaborate stone gateway. The terrace is 289 paces long, and is in two levels. That next the balustrade is 14 feet wide and gravelled. Above this is a grass walk, 25 feet wide, with box-hedges, and a ha-ha on the side to the park. Part of the balustrade has been removed, and now encloses the playground of the Grammar School.

The terraces hitherto described are such as might be made in ground with a slight fall. Hanging gardens are a form of terrace, but it is best to distinguish the two. The terrace is specifically a walk raised above the adjacent ground, with a certain proportion between the length and width, whereas a hanging garden is in the nature of a raised platform, which may be as broad as it is long, or any other width and any height.<sup>1</sup> These hanging gardens were going out of fashion in Worlidge's time, probably because of their great expense in making; but in certain cases they were rendered necessary by the ground. Camden says of Holdenby House,

<sup>1</sup> The distinction can be well seen at Penshurst, where, in front of the house, there is a broad platform of turf raised above the garden level, and the terrace proper runs down one side of the garden.

built for Hatton in 1583: "Above all is especially to be noted with what industry and toyle of man the garden hath been raised, levelled, and formed out of a most craggie and unprofitable piece of ground, now framed a most pleasant, sweete, and princely place." The gardens of Haddon Hall are well known. They are laid out in four main levels; at the top is a raised walk 70 paces long by 15 wide, planted with a double row of lime-trees. About 10 feet below this is the yew-tree terrace, divided into three plots, about 15 yards square, surrounded by stone curbs, with yew-trees in each angle. These were once clipped, but are now grown into great trees overshadowing the entire terrace. Dorothy Vernon's stairs descend on to this yew-tree terrace. A flight of twenty-six steps led from this terrace to a lower garden about 40 yards square, divided into two grass plots. A walk from this garden skirted round two sides of a second garden laid out in three levels, and reached the postern door in the outer garden-wall by seventy-one steps laid out in seven consecutive flights. The original gardens at Chatsworth were laid out as a succession of terrace gardens, but the greater part of this was destroyed by Paxton. "Queen Mary's Bower," at Chatsworth, is a curious instance of what must be called a hanging garden; it is a square enclosure on a raised platform, with retaining walls and open parapet surrounded by

a moat. This was probably a garden of herbs. Kip's view of New Park, in Surrey, shows a large garden, cut out in the side of a hill, with a high double embankment above it, and an embankment in three levels below. The house stood at the bottom of the hill. This is an exceedingly foolish arrangement. The garden would be invisible from the house except to a person standing on the top of the chimney. If you must have hanging gardens, it is better, as Worlidge pointed out, to have them below the house than above it, and not to put the terraces too close together—that is to say, to keep the level pieces (what the French used to call the *Plein pied*) as wide as possible, otherwise you are in a constant state of going up and down stairs. There are good examples of combined terrace and bank work at Clevedon Court in Somerset, and in the garden of St. Catherine's Court, Bath. In *The Theory of Gardening* a third method of dealing with sloping ground is given. This dispensed with terraces and left the ground on a slope, but provided at intervals elaborate landing-places, called generally "amphitheatres" with "easy ascents and flights of steps for communication, with front paces, counter-terraces, volutes, rolls, banks, and slopes of grass, placed and disposed with symmetry," and further adorned with figures and fountains. This was considered in France the most magnificent way of dealing with a slope, but it was seldom

adopted in England. Such a treatment would be exceedingly costly to carry out and maintain, in decent order.

The dislike of regular design entertained by the landscape gardener is shown most conspicuously in his treatment of paths. He lays them about at random, and keeps them so narrow that they look like threads, and there is barely room to walk abreast, and he makes a particular point of planting trees and bushes in the way, to give him an opportunity of winding his path, and then taking credit to himself for subordinating his paths to "nature." The width and proportion of paths and their relation to the amount of turf on either side is a point of the greatest importance in garden design. In the seventeenth century it was taken for granted that all paths should be straight. Lawson says "One principall end of orchards is recreation by walks, and universallie walks are straight," and the main walks of the garden were always wide enough at the least for two or three people to walk abreast. Markham gives 14 feet as a minimum width for main paths. He advises that the alleys be made in three divisions—a broad walk in the middle, 7 or 8 feet wide at the least, covered with sand or small gravel, or even fine coal-dust, and on either side a width of grass of the same width as the centre alley. Thus, the sandy walk being 7 feet wide, the entire alley, including the grass on either side, will be



21 feet across. Markham notices that the French paved or tiled their centre paths, but he preferred our gravel. The centre path is to be slightly raised in the centre to throw off wet. A useful caution is given by Meager (1670) that the fall to either side from the centre should be so slight as to be hardly discernible, for "a great fall is unhandsome, and uneasy for such as wear high-heeled shoes." Markham gives as practical reasons for his triple walk—(1) That the contrast of colours, of the green of the grass and the yellow of the sand, is delightful to the eye, for "beauty is nothing but an excellent mixture or consent of colours, as in the composition of a delicate woman, the grace of her cheeke is the mixture of red and white, the wonder of her eye, blacke and white, and the beauty of her hand blew and white"; (2) if your walks are all grass, you trample down part by treading on it, and make it shabby and ill-favoured; (3) that after dew and rain you cannot walk on it at all. Another form of triple walk is given by Worlidge, who classifies walks under three heads. (1) The best, he says, are made with stone "about the breadth of 5 foot in the midst of a gravel walk of about 5 or 6 feet gravel on each side the stone, or of grasse, which you please." (2) Gravel walks. These are good to be laid out under fruit walls, because they reflect the sun better than grass, and should be made in the

following manner:—Remove all the surface earth and all roots from the subsoil for a depth of 8 or 9 inches. Fill in with coarse unscreened gravel (or broken bricks) for 5 or 6 inches, level and well ram it, and lay over the surface a final coat of fine gravel 2 or 3 inches thick. If moss appears, you are to rake up the top coat and roll it again. To prevent the earth at the sides from mixing with the gravel and causing weeds and moss, the sides should be supported with two or three courses of brickwork, or bricks set on end, edge to edge, the top of the bricks to be about an inch below the surface. To prevent the gravel disintegrating in frost, a coating of sea-shells or brick refuse broken up fine is useful. On either side of the gravel walk verges of turf should be formed for use in hot weather; the grass may be separated from the gravel by stone edging rising 3 or 4 inches above the surface of the path.<sup>1</sup> Switzer gives a rule for the section of the path. It should be 1 inch rise to 5 feet in width; thus if a path is 20 feet wide, it ought to be 4 inches higher in the middle than at the sides. (3) Green walks, made either by laying turf or by “raking them fine and sowing them with hay-dust or seed, which may be had at the bottom of a hay-mow.”

<sup>1</sup> In the quadrangle of New College, Oxford, the oval of turf is raised some 3 to 4 inches above the gravel; a small stone curb rises 2 inches or so above the gravel, and the edge of the turf is flush with its face. By this means a perfectly true edge is kept.

They should be very slightly rounded at the top, and have a water table on either side 2 to 3 inches deep. The flower garden described by Worlidge practically consisted of three such paths as the last, with flower-beds between. It was to be oblong in shape, forming the centre third of a square, of which the other two-thirds were occupied by the kitchen gardens and orchard. The flower garden was to consist of a broad gravel walk, with borders of flowers, with green walks beyond these borders, and borders of perennials planted between the green walks and the palisades.

London and Wise, in *The Retired Gard'ner*, say that in a garden of 4 acres the main path parallel to the house should be at least 20 feet wide, the path down the centre and the walks at the sides and ends 15 feet, and intermediate paths 12 feet wide; all alleys should have a border of grass or flowers 3 feet wide on either side, and they add, in a note, "We generally make our alleys 2 foot broad for passing, 5 foot for wheeling, and 7 foot for two persons to walk abreast in." "Walks" are dealt with in some detail in *The Theory of Gardening*. The author distinguishes between "single walks," with a single row of trees or a palisade on either side, and "double walks," which consisted of a broad walk in the middle, with smaller walks at the sides. The side walks were separated from the centre walks by

a line of single trees, and from the grounds by a palisade breast high. These side walks were called counter walks. They were usually made half the width of the centre walk. For instance, if the entire walk was 48 feet wide, the centre walk would be 24 feet wide, the side walks 12 feet each; but the counter walks should never be less than 6 feet wide at the least. "The best way to gravel walks," he continues, "is to make a bed of mason's rubble or stone dust, lay at the bottom 7 or 8 inches thickness of the coarser stone or gallets, and upon that about 2 inches thickness of the finest dust that has been run through a sieve. Let this be beaten three several times with the Beater, after having been well watered each time, and then spread the gravel upon it, which also should be well beaten. When you lay a bed of saltpetre over this mason's dust, as is done in making a mall or Base to bowl on, it should be beat eight or nine times." Coarse gravel or pebbles may be used instead of mason's dust. He admits that this way of gravelling is "very chargeable," and that in ordinary cases 2 inches of gravel well beaten and rolled may do. "Draining wells should be made at convenient distances of flint and dug stones." Another method is to make a deep **V** groove under the length of the path, and fill up with boulders and smaller stones to form a continuous drain. As to the dimensions of great walks, the French author gives a width

of from 30 to 36 feet for a walk 600 feet long, 42 to 48 for 1200 feet, 54 to 60 for 1800 feet, and so on. The Broad Walk at Hampton Court, as laid out by Wise in 1699, was 2264 feet long by 39 feet wide.

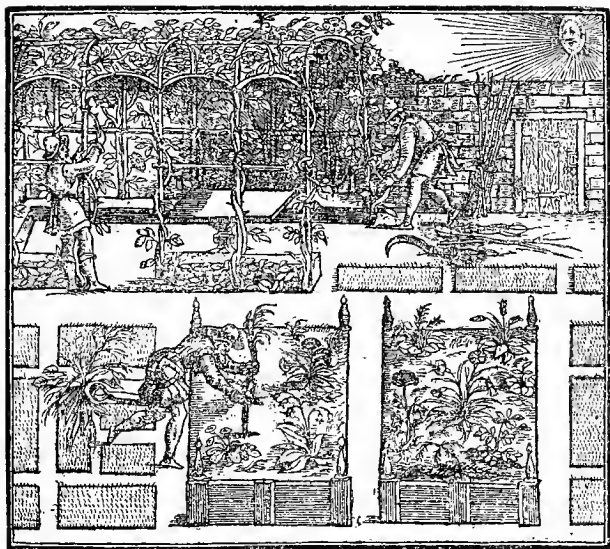


FIG. 24.—From *The Gardener's Labyrinth*.

Besides the main walks of the garden there are the small paths between beds and parterres. In *The Gardener's Labyrinth* 3 or 4 feet is given as the width for such an alley covered with sand, and 1 foot as the width for the cross path between the beds. One foot to 1

foot 6 inches continued to be a common width for the paths inside parterres down to the end of the eighteenth century. At Bellair, in King's County, Ireland, there is a parterre of clipped box along the upper side of the kitchen garden in which the width is 16 inches. This was laid out in 1790. Rea gives a few particulars of the alleys to the fret of his flower garden. These were to be 2 feet 6 inches between the fret, gravelled and rolled and separated from the beds by a rail 5 inches by  $1\frac{1}{4}$  thick, carefully gauged and levelled and painted white, kept in position by stout wooden pins about 18 inches long, nailed to the rail and driven into the ground. The rail was to be 4 inches above the surface of the path and the grass 1 inch. This rule for the height of the grass above the path is still given by landscape gardeners. The small alleys running in and out of the different parts of the fret communicated with a broad path 17 feet 6 inches wide, running round the four sides of the entire fret. Instead of the plank, Rea says box-edging will do for a border to beds and grass, but all the borders to the walks should be set with these planks.

A charming walk is described by Lawson in dealing with the fences of his orchard. The best fence, he says, is a hedge with a mount or double ditch ; the ditches are to be 2 yards wide and 4 feet deep. Between them is to be formed a walk 6 feet wide, raised some 5 or 6 feet

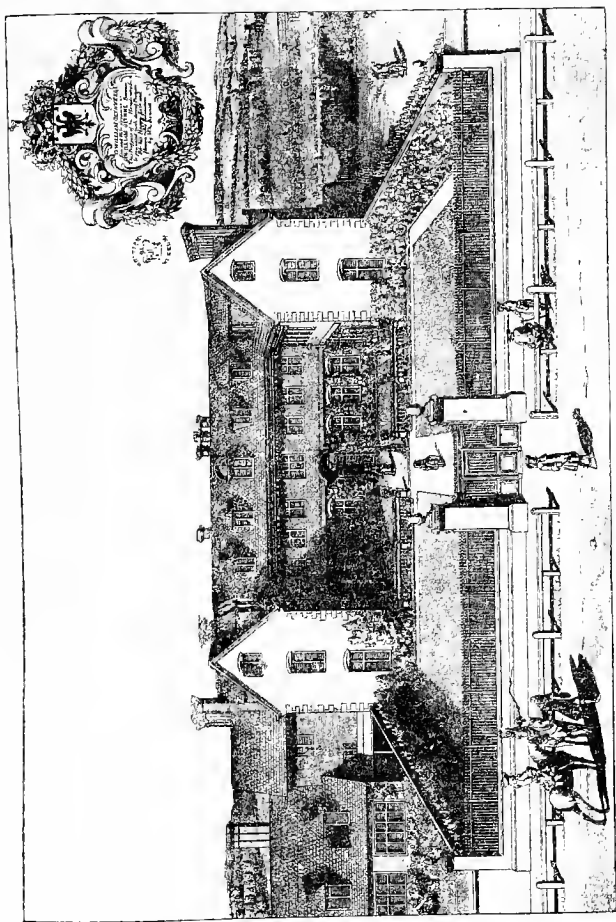


FIG. 25.—Ambrosden, from Kennett.

above the level of the orchard or garden. The outer bank of this walk is to be planted with thorn, the inner with cherry, plum, damson, bullas, or filbert, and the trees to be trimmed to any form you fancy. At each corner of the walk and in the middle of each side "a mound would be rayseed, whereabout the woode might claspe, powdered with woodebinde." There is an orchard at the Lordship House, Hadham, in Hertfordshire, which closely follows this idea, and was probably laid out early in the seventeenth century. The orchard, which is rectangular, is surrounded by a moat (now dry), and beyond this, on either side, are raised grass walks with old yew hedges. The effect is extremely good. Switzer mentions a terrace walk at the end of a garden 12 to 20 feet wide, 2 to 3 feet above the garden, with a parapet wall on the outer side, and a graft or ditch to separate it from the park 15 feet wide and 5 deep. This sounds rather bare and uninviting after Lawson's beautiful idea.



VIEW OF FORECOURT SHEWING ONE OF THE PAVILIONS: MONTACUTE:



## CHAPTER VI

KNOTS, PARTERRES, GRASS-WORK,  
MOUNTS, BOWLING-GREENS, THEATRES

THE ordinary modern flower-bed is ugly in form and monotonous in colour, and it seems to be thought necessary to border it with the ugly lobelia, regardless of the colours of the flower-bed itself. All the fancy has gone out of it, and little or no attempt is made to lay out the beds on any consecutive scheme. Contrast this with the beds of the old gardens of New College, now destroyed.<sup>1</sup> In front of the entrance gateway there was a broad path about 18 feet wide, with cross paths subdividing the garden into four square plots. On the right-hand plot as you entered was worked, probably in rosemary, hyssop, or thyme, the arms of New College and the motto "manners makyth man" and the date. In the next plot was a curious device in flowers. On the left hand was planted the royal arms and the date 1628; and the

<sup>1</sup> Logan's *Oxonia Illustrata*.

plot beyond was laid out as an enormous sun-dial, the hours probably shown in box or rosemary on an oval of sand, with an upright dial formed of wood in the centre. Olivier de Serres mentions a similar sun-dial, in which a single cypress formed the dial.<sup>1</sup> Such a

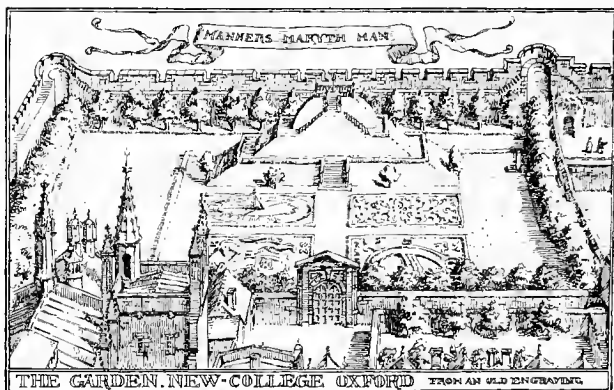


FIG. 26.

garden, if it had been preserved, would have been beyond all price to us now. The ridicule with which such work is dismissed, the abuse lavished on it as artificial, is beside the mark. It is just this very artifice, this individuality, this human interest, that gives to the old formal garden its undying charm—the feeling that once there was a man or a woman who cared about

<sup>1</sup> *Théâtre d'Agriculture*, p. 531.

the garden enough to have it laid out in one way more than another, and that they and many generations since have taken pleasure in its beauty and the fancy of its parterres. Perhaps, when any tradition of art is formed among us again, there will return this pleasure and delight in those old ways which are the better.

In the sixteenth century the flower-beds were commonly square. The author of *The Gardener's Labyrinth* advises that they should be kept to such a size as that "the weeder's handes may well reach into the middest of the bed"; 12 feet by 6 is given as the size. Each bed was to be raised about 1 foot above the ground, but 2 feet in marshy ground. The edges were to be cased in with stout planks framed into square posts with finials at the angles, with intermediate supports. Rea, in his *Flora*, a hundred years later, advises beds and the various parts of the frets for flowers to be formed with planks in much the same way, but the plank side was only to be 4 inches high. Beds raised in this way about 18 inches above the adjacent paths, and bordered with box-edgings, can still be seen in the gardens at Versailles. Besides the square flower-beds, a more intricate form of bed, designed to fill up a square plot, was much in use. This latter was called a "knot." In the sixteenth century it seems to have been usually formed with rosemary, hyssop,

and thyme. Five designs for knots are given in *The Gardener's Labyrinth*, which were to be formed entirely of hyssop or thyme. In *The Countrie Housewife's Garden* (1617) Lawson gives "divers new knots for gardens," viz. :—

Cinkfoyle	Lozenges
Flowers de luce	Grosc-boowe
Trefoyle	Diamond
Frette	Ovall
Maze	

All the flowers and herbs for these should, he says, be planted by Michaeltide. The borders were to be of "Roses, thorne, Lavender, rosemaris, isop, sage, or such like," and filled in with cowslips, primroses, and violets, "Daffy-downdillies," "sweet Sissely," "go to bed at noone," and all sweet flowers, and, chief of all, with gillyflowers, the favourite flower of the English Renaissance—"July flowers, commonly called Gillyflowers,<sup>1</sup> or clove Jully flowers (I

<sup>1</sup> The name carnation gradually superseded the name gillyflower. Worlidge refers to it as the vulgar name for gillyflower. "Carnation" was at first used to describe one species, but came to be used for gillyflowers in general. Lawson's play upon words is pretty but improbable. Gillyflower is possibly a corruption of *Guies Fleur*. A full account of this flower and its various species will be found in Gerard's *Herbal*, chap. 172. Of clove Gillyflowers, Gerard says that these flowers were procured from Poland by a worshipful merchant of London, Master Nicholas Lett, and given to him for his garden; and that they had never before "been seen or heard of in these countries," and further that fresh varieties were being constantly introduced into England. He considered them not inferior to the Rose "in beauty, smell, and varietie." Matthioli, in his commentary on Dioscorides, p. 316, says that they were called in France "Grophles," again probably a corruption of the Latin name "Caryophyllus."

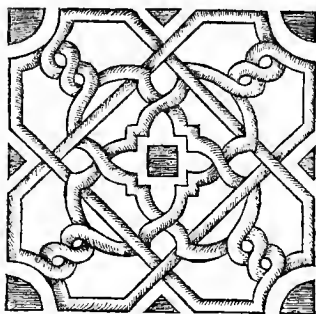
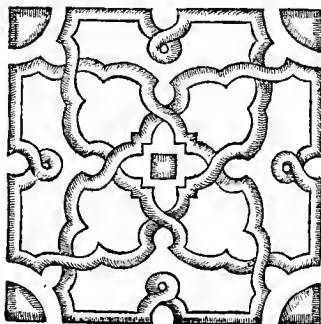
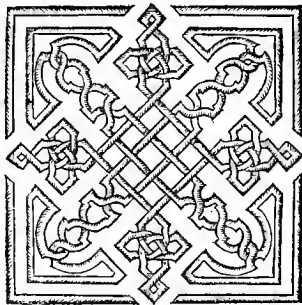
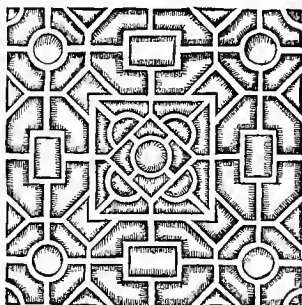
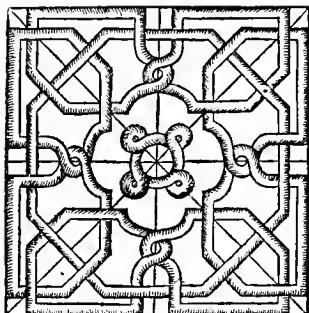
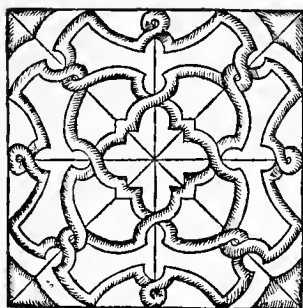


FIG. 27.—Knots, from Markham.

call them so because they flower in July); they have the names of cloves of their scent. I may well call them the king of flowers (except the rose). Of all flowers (save the Damaske rose) they are the most pleasant to sight and smell." Markham says that "Of all the best ornaments used in our English gardens, knots or mazes were the most ancient, and at this day of most use among the vulgar, the least respected with great ones." His list of knots contains :—

Straight line knots	Mixed knots
Diamond knots, single and double	Single Impleate of straight line
Single knots	Plain and mixed
Direct and circular	

These knots were formed with a border of box, lavender, or rosemary, 18 inches broad at the bottom, and clipped so close and level at the top as to form a table for the housewife to spread out clothes to dry on. Markham gives instructions how knots are to be set out from designs on paper by subdividing the square plot into a number of squares proportional to those on the paper, and adds that "You are to keep your level to a haire, for if you faill in it you faill in your whole work." He further describes two knots which anticipate the *parterre de broderie*. In the first you set out the lines of your design in germander or hyssop, and fill in the parts with different

coloured earths and chalks, with camomile for green. By this means you may represent armorial bearings or anything else, and a very poor affair it would probably have been. The other knot sounds much more attractive. You set out a plain knot, the larger the better. The different "thrids" of the knot, as Markham calls them, are to be planted with flowers of one colour. Thus in one you will place carnation gillyflowers, in another great white gillyflowers, in another blood red, or hyacinths, or "dulippos." The knot will then appear as if "made of divers coloured ribans." The maze which appears in these descriptions of knots was evidently only a figure for a bed and not a labyrinth, such as the maze at Hatfield or Hampton Court. Meager gives some designs for knots and uses the term, but he does not describe them, and his designs are inferior to those of the beginning of the seventeenth century. Knots seem to have dropped out of use in the reign of Charles II. The word occurs in London and Wise's translation of *The Retired Gard'ner*, and in James's translation; but the writers only deal with parterres.

The parterre was introduced from France. The old parterre corresponded to the English knot, except that it was much more elaborate. As early as 1600 Claude Mollet laid out parterres of embroidery for Henry IV. at the

Tuileries, Fontainebleau, and St. Germain-en-Laye. Seven engravings of these are given in Olivier de Serres's *Théâtre d'Agriculture et mesnage des Champs*, 1603. These were planted with flowers and grass edgings, and laid with coloured earths. The parterre was developed by Le Notre, and by the end of the seventeenth century a systematic classification was arrived at, which divided parterres into four main heads.<sup>1</sup> In James's translation of *The Theory and Practice of Gardening* they are given as follows :—"Parterres of embroidery, parterres of compartment, parterres after the English manner, and parterres of cut-work. There are also parterres of water, but at present they are quite out of use."

1. *Parterres de broderie* were designs similar to embroidered work, planted with edgings of box and filled up with different coloured earths, such as black earth composed of iron filings, or the scales beaten off the anvils, or powdered red tiles, or charcoal, or yellow sand. The foliage of the design was called "branchings," the flowers "flourishings."

2. *Parterres of compartment* are the same as the last, except that the design, instead of being single, is repeated both at the ends and the sides—that is to say, one quarter of the

<sup>1</sup> The term *parterre* was used generally to signify one specific plot or compartment of a garden, which formed a single design complete in itself.



whole parterre gives the design, and to complete the entire parterre this quarter has only to be reversed and doubled, so that it is used up four times.

3. *Parterres à l'Anglaise* were formed simply with grass cut into various patterns and bounded with box-edgings. Round the whole parterre would run a sanded path, 2 to 3 feet wide, and then a border of flowers to separate it from the main walks. The terrace garden overlooking the *pièce d'eau des Suisses*, at Versailles, is laid out with *parterres à l'Anglaise*, but this parterre was never a success in France, owing to the inferiority of the French to the English turf.

4. Parterres of cut-work admitted neither grass nor coloured earths, but every part of it between the box-edgings was to be planted entirely with flowers.

The paths between each part were to be covered with yellow or white sand, and set out at regular spaces with large Dutch jars filled with flowers. London and Wise mention that it was once the custom to cover the paths with potter's clay, well beaten, with lees of oil. James specifies brick dust or tile sherds powdered. In parterres of cut-work all parts of the ground under the flowers and within the box-edgings were to be covered with fine sand.

Round these parterres were planted borders

from 4 to 6 feet wide, formed with a sharp rising in the middle, "like a carp's back."<sup>1</sup> These borders were either continuous all round the parterre or cut into short lengths by cross paths. They might be planted with flowers or formed entirely of grass, with two small sanded paths on either side, or entirely of sand with a simple edging of box next the gravel walk. In the two last cases they would be set out with vases and flower-pots, or orange-trees in cases, with yews in between, spaced at regular intervals round the border. No yews or shrubs were to be permitted to grow more than 4 to 5 feet high, to avoid hiding the parterre. The *plates-bandes isolées* of the French were detached borders of flowers having no relation to parterres. They were reserved for the choicest flowers, and were enclosed with borders of planks, such as those described by Rea, painted green. Composite parterres were formed by the combination of *parterres de broderie* with cut-work and so on.

No instance of these parterres as at first planted has survived, and it could not possibly do so except in the case of the *parterre à l'Anglaise*. Even the French author admits that they are costly to lay out, and always lose their form. On the whole the loss is not to be regretted, for the designs shown in James's translation, and particularly in Switzer's *Ichno-*

<sup>1</sup> *The Retired Gard'ner.*

*graphia*, are exceedingly absurd. The purpose of a garden—to make the most of flowers and velvety turf—was forgotten. The dignity of the older formal garden was lost in these intricate designs, which only led to a violent reaction in favour of what was considered to be nature unadorned. Of all the parterres the *parterre à l'Anglaise* was the least absurd, and the Frenchmen thought little of it. What is one to think of a parterre laid out “with the mask-head of a griffin having bats’ wings formed by the sides of grass-work, as the flourishes of the embroidery form the nose, eyes, brows, moustaches, and tuft upon the head of the mask”? Much might be done with simple parterres of grass and flowers, but the elaborate system in fashion at the beginning of the eighteenth century was a pernicious abuse. It is significant that some of the silliest of its features—such as the use of coloured earths and broken tiles—have survived in the practice of the landscape gardener.

Grass-work as an artistic quantity can hardly be said to exist in landscape gardening. It is there considered simply as so much background to be broken up with shrubs and pampas grass and irregular beds; not as a means of effect in itself, to be handled as a question of values, both in regard to colour and amount. Lawn-tennis and croquet have stopped some of the worst faults of the landscapist by necessitating a clear space of level lawn, and this large expanse

of uninterrupted grass has always been an essential feature in formal garden design.

In the older garden, grass-work would include all artificial works intended to be turfed—such as mounts, grass walks and banks, bowling-greens, and theatres. The mount was a common feature in English gardens as late as the middle of the seventeenth century. They were the natural result of the walled-in garden, in so far as they provided the place from which the owner could look abroad beyond his walls, and were probably formed by the earth excavated for the house. In the larger gardens there were artificial mounts of considerable height raised at some distance from the house, and usually turfed and planted with trees. At the top might be a banqueting-house. Kip's view of Dunham Massie, in Cheshire, shows a circular mount in four stages or terraces. Each stage was fenced in with a pole-hedge, and at the top was a garden-house with four gables. Leland (*Itinerary*, p. 60) says that at Wresehall, in Yorkshire, "in the orchardes were mountes, opere topiarii writhen about with degrees like turninges of cockell-shells, to cum to the top without paine." It is possible that mounts of this kind were suggested by a curious description of a medicinal garden given by Olivier de Serres, and referred to by Markham. De Serres gives two designs for these "montagnetes" (as he calls them) or mounts. One was to be

circular in six stages, ascended by a continuous walk like the Tower of Babel ; the other was to be square in six stages, ascended by flights of steps at the four angles. The stages were to be 15 feet wide—11 for the path and 4 for the border of herbs. Each stage was to be 6 to 8 feet high, with retaining walls of masonry, and the interior might be vaulted over as an inner chamber for preserving the plants in winter. The circular mount was 45 fathoms in diameter, the square 50 fathoms by 50 ; but De Serres suggests that these might be used on a very much smaller scale. Worlidge mentions the mount at Marlborough as the most considerable in England at his time. This somewhat resembles the circular mount of De Serres. Mounts were usual in the smaller gardens as well. The square mount in New College garden still exists. The base of the mount measures about 40 paces by 40 ; the height is about 30 feet, but the original shape has been lost, and it is now entirely overgrown with trees and shrubs. There was a famous mount in Wadham Gardens, circular in plan, with an octagonal platform at the top reached by a double flight of steps. In the centre of this platform was a colossal figure of Atlas carrying the globe. This mount stood in the centre of the garden,<sup>1</sup> but their position appears to have

<sup>1</sup> The Wadham mount still exists, but the Atlas and all that made it interesting have long since disappeared.

been arbitrary. The term was also used for the raised walk at the end of the garden.<sup>1</sup> Lawson mentions "mountes whence you may shoote a Buck" among the causes of delight in an orchard. "When you behold in divers corners of your orcharde mounts of stone or woode curiously wrought within and without, or of earth covered with fruit-trees; Kentish cherry, damsones, plummes, etc., with staires of precious workmanship, and in some corner (or mo.) a true Dyall or clocke and some anticke workes, and especially silver-sounding musique, mixt instruments and voices gracing all the rest: how will you be rapt with delight? Large walks, broad and long, close and open like the Tempe groves in Thessaly raised with gravel and sand, having seats and banks of camomile, all this delights the mind, and brings health to the body." The latest instance of a mount seems to have been the mount at New Park, in Surrey, which was laid out at the end of the seventeenth century, probably by London and Wise. The mount here was placed in the extreme upper right-hand corner to overlook the whole of the garden.

Grass walks have been already referred to in dealing with paths. Bowling-greens existed in almost every old English garden of any size. Borde refers to them, and Markham distinguishes between three sorts of bowling-grounds:

<sup>1</sup> See *A Platform for Ponds*, reproduced from Markham.

(1) The bowling-alley; (2) "open grounds of advantage"—that is, bowling-greens with a fall one way; (3) level bowling-greens. In *Country Contentments* (chap. viii.) he says, "Your flat bowles, being the best for close allies, your round byazed bowles for open grounds of advantage, and your round bowles like a ball for greene swarthes that are plaine and leuell." A terrace or raised walk about 2 feet high often ran round the bowling-green, as at Cusworth, in Yorkshire. At Badminton a raised walk ran round two sides of the green, and at one end was a second raised alley for skittles. The shape of the green was usually square, and it seems to have been placed indifferently at the back or sides of the house. In later work the bowling-green was sometimes placed at a distance from the house, and laid out circular. At Cashiobury, laid out by Cook for Lord Essex, the bowling-green was placed at the end of a long avenue, and surrounded by a circular belt of fir-trees. At Penshurst the green was put out in the middle of a field. At Hampton Court the bowling-green is over half a mile from the palace. It is oval in plan and lies at the end of the Long Walk. This bowling-green is now planted over with trees. One of the pavilions remains; the other was destroyed in this century. Bowling-greens continued to be laid out in the eighteenth century. In Kip's view of

Knole in *Britannia Illustrata* no bowling-green is shown ; but in Badeslade's view,<sup>1</sup> made about twenty years later, a beautiful bowling-green is shown on the south side of the house. This was oval in plan, about 70 paces by 40, surrounded by a high clipped hedge with arbours on the east and west sides, and openings on the north and south. It was reached by a double flight of steps from the lower parterres in front of the house. From the fact that this is not shown in Kip, it is probable that it was made early in the eighteenth century. At Radley College, near Oxford, there is a long bowling-alley, probably of the same date as the original house—about the middle of the eighteenth century. At Stratford-on-Avon there exists a square bowling-green in excellent order, where, on the long summer evenings, the game is still played with much gravity and science. The object of a bowling-green as a playing-ground was never lost sight of in England. London and Wise mention that a custom had been introduced of planting tall trees round public bowling-greens “rather to pleasure their customers than for any advantage to their greens” ; but the green itself was always kept open. From England bowling-greens were introduced into France, probably by Le Nôtre. The French called them *boulingrins*, and quite lost sight of

<sup>1</sup> Badeslade's *Views of Noblemen's and Gentlemen's Seats in the County of Kent*.



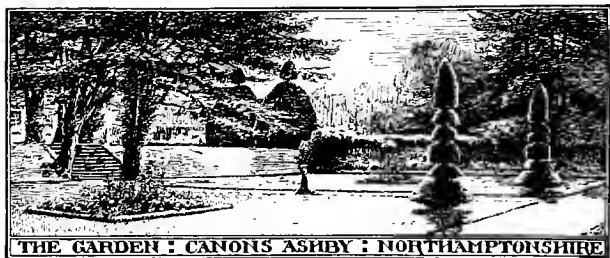
their original purpose, for they made them of all shapes and sizes, and as often as not put a statue or a fountain in the middle of the grass. In the French system the *boulingrin* only differed from the *parterre* in that the latter was planted round with shrubs only, while *boulingrins* were planted with trees—such as elms, horse-chestnuts, and acacias (James). In James's translation, *boulingrins* are defined as "hollow sinkings and slopes of Turf, which are practised either in the middle of very large grass walks and green plots, or in a grove, and sometimes in the middle of a *parterre*, after 'the English mode.' It is nothing but a sinking that makes it a Bowling-green, together with the grass that covers it." The depth of these bowling-greens would be about 2 feet in the larger instances, about 18 inches in the smaller. They were divided into two kinds—plain, consisting simply of grass-work, with fine rolled paths between; and composed, which were laid out with trees, box, and palisades of pleached work. In the latter case fountains or statues were sometimes placed in the middle of the green.

The French further included in their classification of grass-work "ascents" of various elaborate forms, which were generally subdivided into two heads—the *glacis* which was a gentle slope, and the *talus* which was steep. Besides the above varieties, theatres and banks of

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different designs were formed in grass-work. Grass theatres were more common on the continent than in England. The author of the *Théorie et Pratique* talks of a “salle avec des gradins servant d’amphithéâtre et de théâtre pour jouer la comédie.” In the gardens of the Prince Bishops of Wurzburg there was a famous amphitheatre formed of banks of turf, with clipped hedges for scenery. This practice of designing banks and recesses of grass-work might well be revived on simpler lines, provided always that geometrical forms are kept to—such as plain curves or rectangular shapes—and that there is none of that vague amorphous sloping in which the landscape gardener delights. There is no reason why a croquet lawn should not be laid out on the lines of a bowling-green, with regular sloped grass banks at the sides; and at one end a semicircular bay in grass might be formed, or what the older writers used to call a cabinet—that is, a regular recess with a well-trimmed pole-hedge. There are great possibilities about such a lawn properly handled—that is, if the scale given by the dimensions of the croquet ground itself is sedulously adhered to, and the features introduced are kept sufficiently large and simple. To make it a really valuable part of the garden it is not enough to lay out a sufficient expanse of grass, which loses itself at the earliest opportunity in shrubs and flower-beds. The lawn should be taken

as a definite problem, and designed as an integral part of the garden. And this applies to all grass-work. The mistake of the landscapist is that he considers grass only as a background, not as a very beautiful thing in itself. Grass-work ought to be designed with reference to its own particular beauty. The turf of an English garden is probably the most perfect in the world, certainly it is far more beautiful than any to be found on the continent, and even the French admitted this two hundred years ago. It is wilfully throwing away a most valuable means of delight to treat grass-work as a mere affair of hap-hazard convenience. Here, perhaps, most of all, in order to get out of grass-work its full possibility of beauty, is necessary that decent order and restraint, that fine sobriety of taste that once reigned paramount over all the arts of design in England.



## CHAPTER VII

FISH-PONDS, PLEACHING, ARBOURS,  
GALLERIES, HEDGES, PALISADES, GROVES

THE double purpose of a garden—for use and pleasure—has been forgotten in landscape gardening. You either get a kitchen garden useful but ugly, or a pleasure garden not useful, and only redeemed from ugliness by the flowers themselves. The charm of the older garden is in the combination of the two, or rather the way in which grounds and water laid out, not solely for their beauty, were made beautiful by their reasonable order. The old fish-pond with its regular grass banks is a charming thing in itself, yet this was at first as much a matter of necessity as the poultry-house or the dove-cote. Here lived the lazy carp, the pike, the perch, the bream, the tench, and other fish that might

be wanted for the table. A slow stream of running water kept the fish-pond fresh, and at one end was formed a "stew," or small tank, to keep the fish that were netted. Markham describes the formation of a fish-pond in some detail (*Cheape and Good Husbandrie*, book ii., London 1638). First drain your ground and bring all the water to one head or main reservoir. From this you form your canal to supply the pond. The sides of the canal are to be formed with piles, 6 feet long and 6 inches square, of oak, ash, or elm, to be driven in in rows and the earth well rammed behind them. You then form the sides of your pond with sloping banks covered with large sods of plot grass laid close and pinned down with small stakes. "On one side you are to stake down Bavens or faggots of brushwood for the fish to spawn in, and some sods piled up for the comfort of the eels, and if you stick sharp stakes slantwise by every side of the pond that will keep thieves from robbing them." To explain his advice, Markham gives "a platform for ponds" (reproduced in the text), which shows a perfectly symmetrical arrangement of a square with a triangular extension on the entrance side. The walks between the canals and ponds were to be planted with willows or fruit-trees. Markham also describes another method of dealing with marshy ground, by which an orchard might be combined with a

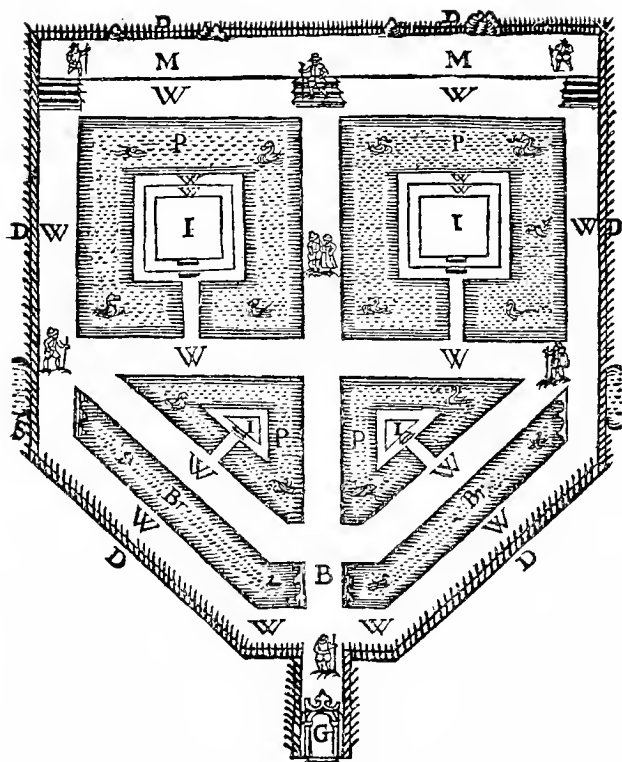
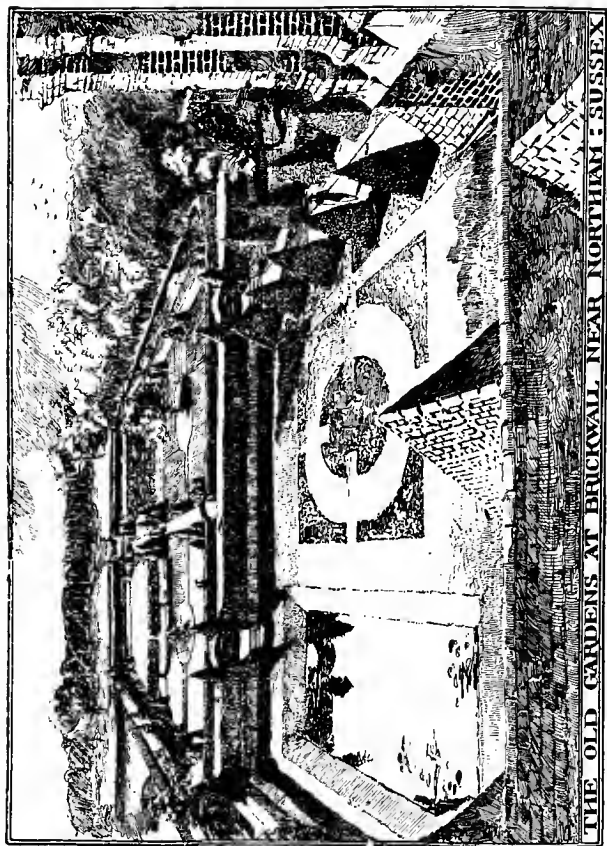


FIG. 28.—From Markham's *Cheape and Good Husbandrie*.

- |                                  |                    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| G. The Gate.                     | P. The Ponds.      |
| D. The Ditch and quickset hedge. | I. The Peniles.    |
| W. The Walkes.                   | M. The Mount.      |
| B. The Bridge.   Br. The Brooke. | S. The Springhead. |
- The walkes about the pond may be planted with fruit-trees or willows.

fish-pond. You dig a series of ditches 16 feet broad and 9 deep, 12 feet apart in parallel rows, the banks between to be 7 feet high and 12 feet wide, planted with osier at the sides and fruit-trees on the banks—"Thus you will get a sort of maze and pleasant fish-ponds." Perhaps the gardens at Theobalds described by Hentzner (see chap. ii.) were laid out in this manner. Six feet of water and 2 feet for the banks are given by Markham as maximum depths. The size would be arbitrary. Lawson, who had a keener eye for beauty than Markham, advises that the pond should be large enough for swans and other water birds. The fish-pond gradually lost its practical character and developed into the ornamental water; it became part of the scheme of the garden design, grass banks and all. There is a good instance of this in the Brickwall gardens, where the fish-pond, which measures 32 paces by 12 wide, occupies one of the two main plots. There is another instance at Pendell House, near Bletchingley, where the fish-pond divides the lawn from the flower gardens beyond. At Sydenham, in Devonshire, there is an oblong piece of water in the middle of the lawn with a circular basin for a fountain in the centre. The grass banks required a good deal of attention to keep them trim, and this led to the substitution of brick or stone sides instead of grass in more important work; and when the influence of Le Nôtre extended



THE OLD GARDENS AT BRICKWALL NEAR NORTHIAM : SUSSEX

FIG. 29.



to England, the fish-pond as a fish-pond disappeared in the vast sheets of water which formed an essential feature in his system of design. Great canals and basins, as at Wrest, in Bedfordshire, took its place, and the transition from this to the artificial lakes of the

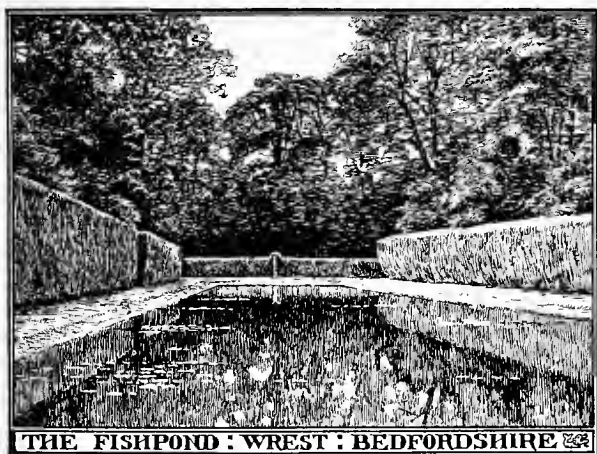


FIG. 30.

landscape gardener was easy. The great canal at Wrest measures about 250 paces by 50, with transepts at the north end and a large pavilion at the south. There is also at Wrest a pond called "the Ladies' Canal," with grass banks measuring about 90 paces by 40. This is surrounded by a broad grass verge and yew-hedges 20 feet high, with a statue at the west

end. The fish-pond at Penshurst measures about 35 paces by 21.0; it has brick side walls, a grass verge 10.9 wide, and yew-hedges 7.6 high on all four sides. The water pieces at Melbourne are rather elaborate, one, with a fountain in the centre, is laid out as an oblong with circular bays on the sides. The main piece is formed by an oblong 72 paces by 43, with a half-quatrefoil extension on the farther side. This is surrounded by grass verges on either side of a gravel path, and yew-hedges with recesses for seats and statues. Opposite the centre, on the farther side, is the famous wrought-iron garden-house. The Long Canal at Hampton Court, measuring 150 feet by 3.500, and formed in the reign of Charles II., is probably the largest instance of the kind in England.

"Pleaching" is probably the best abused of the many iniquities of the formal garden. The man of "nature" says it is unnatural, and it gives an occasion for cheap ridicule too obvious to be resisted. But those who have a weakness for the vicious old practice are in good company. The Romans used to do all sorts of things in pleaching, and so did everybody else down to the end of the seventeenth century and later. The word "pleach" means the trimming of the small boughs and foliage of trees or bushes to bring them to a regular shape, and, of course, only certain species will

submit to this treatment—such as lime, hornbeam, yew, box, holly, white-thorn, and privet, kinds that are “humble and tonsile,” as an old writer calls them. Pleaching must be distinguished from another old word still in use, “plashing,” which refers to the half-cutting of the larger branches and bending them down to form a hedge. Markham explains “plashing” to be “a half-cutting or dividing of the quicke growth almost to the outward barke, and then laying it orderly in a sloape manner, as you see a cunning hedger lay a dead hedge, and then with the smaller and more plyant branches to wreathe and bind in the tops.” Pleaching was employed to form mazes, arbours or bowers, green walks, colonnades, and hedgerows, besides the infinite variety of cut-work in yew and box.

Mazes were formed all through the seventeenth century. The one at Hatfield is a perfect instance. The maze at Hampton Court is another familiar example. This appears to have been planted in the time of William III., and it is not probable that many were laid out after that date. The bower or green arbour existed in the mediæval garden, but probably in a somewhat artless form. The earliest account of arbours is found in *The Gardener's Labyrinth*; the writer classifies arbours as upright or winding. The upright arbour was simply a lean-to, the winding or arch arbour an independent arbour standing by itself. At the end of the seventeenth century

a further distinction was made between bowers and arbours; a bower was always long and arched, an arbour was either round or square, domed over at the top. The older arbours were formed with poles of juniper or willow framed square and bound with osiers, and were covered with roses trimmed and trained to the framing, or with jessamine, rosemary, juniper, or cypress (Markham); or with bryony, cucumber and gourd. "Mountaine" adds that as arbours of roses required a great deal of attention "the most number in England plant vines for the lesser travaile to nurse and spread over the upright and square Herbers, framed with quarters and poles reaching abreadth." These arbours fell into disuse for four excellent reasons, given by Worlidge: "(1) they quickly fall out of repair; (2) the seats are damp; (3) the rain drips longer here than anywhere else; (4) they are draughty, and on a hot day it is pleasanter to sit under a lime-tree than to be hoodwinked in an arbour." Besides the arbours there were the long covered walks and galleries, arched over at the top, with a solid hedge on the outer side, and openings or "windows properly made towards the garden, whereby they might the more fully view and have delight of the whole beauty of the garden." Bacon contemplated a green gallery such as this to run round the sides of his outer garden. There were some remarkable instances in the old gardens at Wilton. The

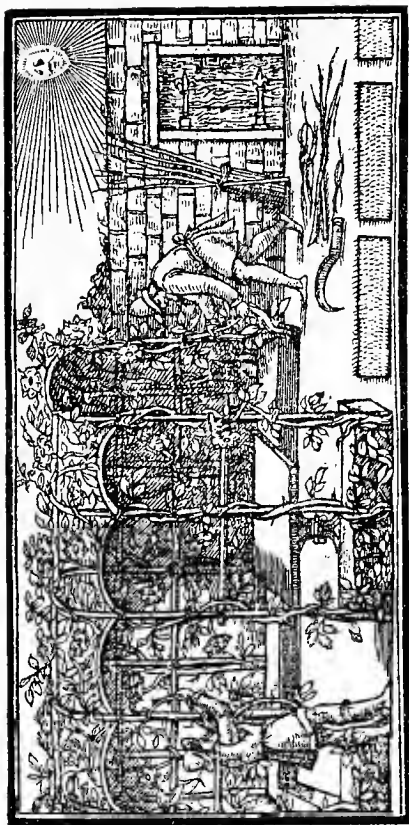


FIG. 31.—From *The Gardener's Labyrinth*.

views published by Isaac de Caux show long green galleries arched over with pavilions at the ends and in the centre ; and some less elaborate galleries are shown in Logan's views of Pembroke, Oxford. The prints reproduced from *The Gardener's Labyrinth* and *The Hortus Floridus* of Crispin de Pass show their general character. The long yew walk at Melbourne is really a green gallery without the openings. It was planted early in the eighteenth century. Its length from the top to the fountain is 120 paces, its width inside 12 feet. The yew has grown into an impenetrable vault of branches overhead, so thick that it is proof against an ordinary shower of rain. The green gallery was not an importation of the sixteenth century, but a direct survival of the mediæval garden. In "The Romance of the Rose" there are several beautiful illustrations of these green galleries, formed of light poles framed square, as described in *The Gardener's Labyrinth*, and overgrown with roses, red and white. They continued in use till the end of the seventeenth century, when, as was the case with nearly all that was beautiful in the formal garden, they were elaborated out of all reason, and only continued in use in quiet country gardens where the master loved his garden, and liked the old ways better than the new. In *The Retired Gard'ner*, by London and Wise, full directions are given for the information of green galleries and porticoes and colonnades of

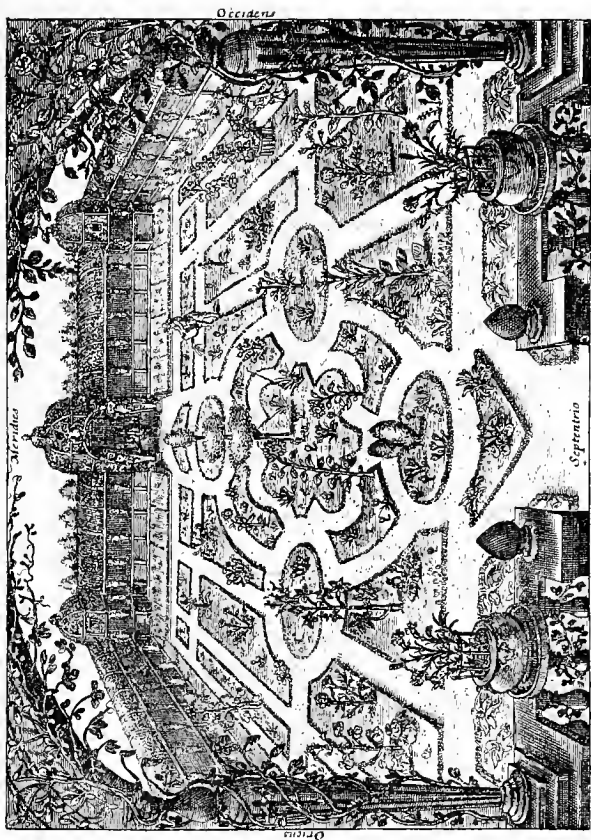


Fig. 32.—Garden, from Crispin de Pass.

cut-work. The galleries should be 8 to 10 feet broad and 12 or 15 feet high, the outer side solid, the inner side open as a gallery, with pillars formed by the trunks of the trees, set 4 feet apart, with a low hedge 3 feet high between each trunk. These were generally formed of lime or hornbeam. "Natural arbours" as opposed to arbours of trellis-work were formed of elm, lime, and hornbeam in the same way. A rough framework of wood or iron seems to have been used in the first instance to start the trees on the required lines. After they were fairly set, the trees were brought into shape by wreathing the boughs together and constant clipping. There is a good example of a pleached alley at Drayton House, Northants, "just as Sir John Germain brought it from Holland," as Horace Walpole wrote in 1763.

Hedges, of course, could only be formed by pleaching. The older gardeners preferred a close-grown hedge, white-thorn or privet, to any other form of fencing round a garden. It was pleasant to look on, and more difficult to get over than any wall. *The Gardener's Labyrinth* says "the most commendable enclosure for every garden plot is a quick-set hedge, made with Brambles and white-thorn." Lawson advises a double ditch and a hedge of thorn, though "it will hardly availe you to make any fence for your orchard, if you be a niggard of your fruite." These hedges were planted in two



or three rows, kept behind shelter for three or four years, and clipped at every possible oppor-



THE YEW WALK : MELBOURNE DERBYSHIRE

FIG. 33.

tunity ; about 6 or 7 feet was a usual height. Worlidge, who was nothing if not practical,

again classifies the reasons for preferring white-thorn for hedges : (1) it grows quickest, and is most easily trimmed ; (2) it is stronger and most durable ; (3) it is of a delicate colour ; (4) it puts out its leaves the earliest in spring. Markham allows five to seven years for a quick-

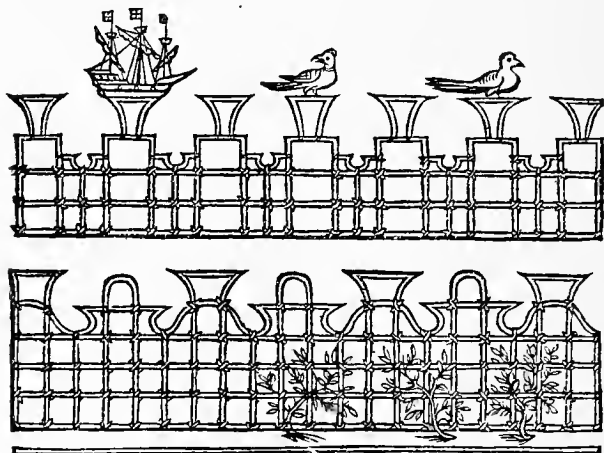


FIG. 34.—Hedge, from Markham's *Country Farm*.

set of white-thorn. In *The Country Farm* he gives some designs for the shaping of hedges. The quarters of his garden are to be fenced with "fine curious hedges made battlement-wise in sundrie forms according to invention, or carrying the proportions of Pyllasters, flowers, shapes of beasts, birds, creeping things, shippes, trees and such-like." A framework is to be formed of

square framing bound with osiers and wire. At the foot of this in the spring or autumn "you shall set white-thorn, eglantine, and sweet-briar mixt together, and as they shall shoot and grow up, so you shall wind and pleach them within the lattice-work, making them grow and cover the same," and always trimming to the shape required. In about two or three years, he says, you will get an excellent, strong hedge. Evelyn in his *Sylva* (Hawthorn) criticises Markham's directions as to plashing, and gives very full particulars as to the proper method of forming a quick-set hedge. In Herefordshire he notices that a crab-tree stock was invariably planted every 20 feet apart in the quick-set. For many years after Markham wrote the custom of cutting the tops of hedges into fanciful shapes continued in use. There is a good example in yew at Cleeve Prior manor-house, in Warwickshire, and the doves at Risley, mentioned before. Evelyn claims that he was the first to bring yew into fashion, not only for hedges, but also as "a succedaneum to cypress, whether in hedges or pyramids, cones, spires, bowls, or what other shapes." Buttresses and ramps, little square towers, finials of various forms, archways and canopies were cut in yew as late as the beginning of this century in out-of-the-way places and in the smaller gardens. The well-known instances at Arley, in Cheshire, and Penshurst are not more than thirty-five years

old. Besides white-thorn, privet, and yew, the sweet-briar, pyracantha, and holly were commonly used for hedges. Holly was the special favourite of Evelyn, because of its power of defence and the sheen of its leaves. At Sayes Court he had a holly-hedge 400 feet long, 9 feet high, and 5 feet thick. This hedge was his special pride till Peter the Great came to live at Deptford, and formed a habit of amusing himself after his labours in shipbuilding by charging the hedge in a wheel-barrow. Evelyn says he had seen hedges of holly 20 feet high "kept upright, and the gilded sort budded low, and in two or three places one above another, shorn and fashioned into columns and pilasters, architectonically shaped and at due distance, than which nothing can possibly be more pleasant, the berry adorning the intercolumniations with scarlet festoons and encarpa." The worst possible bush for a hedge is the laurel. It starts with great promise, and everything goes well for two or three years, after which it gets thin and straggly underneath, and becomes shabbier and shabbier every year. The only chance with it is to cut it and clip it without remorse. In some old-fashioned gardens, where fruit-trees and flowers are allowed to grow together, beautiful hedges are formed by apple-trees grown as espaliers.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> In Mr. Robinson's *Parks and Gardens of Paris* there is a useful description of the French methods of forming trellis-hedges of pear and apple and other fruit trees.

Palisades or pole-hedges were high hedges formed of trees—such as lime, elm, or hornbeam. These were usually of great length and height, and the point to be aimed at was to keep them entirely smooth and even, making, as it were, a great wall of green tapestry, “all the beauty of which consists in being well filled up from the very bottom, of no great thickness, and handsomely clipped on both sides as perpendicularly as possible.” Where the palisades had to be very high the stems of the trees were kept bare of branches, and the intervals up to the level of the lowest branch planted with yew or box trimmed to form a solid screen. At Brickwall there is a palisade of lime-trees along one side of the garden. The branches are trained and trimmed to form a continuous curtain, starting about 10 feet from the ground, and behind the trees is an old red-brick wall up to the level of the boughs. A palisade of this sort is delightful in colour, and easily kept in shape if properly pleached; and in this respect it is more satisfactory than very great walls of yew, which are apt to lose their symmetry and become obese and corpulent as soon as they have reached maturity. Evelyn particularly commends the hornbeam. “Being planted in small fosses or trenches, at half-a-foot interval and in the single row, it makes the noblest and stateliest hedge for long walks in gardens or parks . . . because it grows

tall and so sturdy as not to be wronged by the winds ; besides it will furnish to the very foot of the stem, and flourishes with a glossy and polished verdure, which is exceedingly delightful." He mentions the long walk of the Luxembourg and "the close walk with that perplexed canopy which lately covered the seat in his Majesty's garden at Hampton Court," and the hedges at New Park, as instances of hornbeam hedges. At the end of the seventeenth century much money was spent in forming palisades of different architectural forms. Twenty thousand crowns were spent in work of this sort at the gardens of the Hôtel de Condé. London and Wise are minute in their directions. The arcades were to be formed of elm, lime, or hornbeam—elm for preference. The elms were to be planted in a straight line 8 to 10 feet apart. Elms about 6 feet high and "as thick as your arm" (the two dimensions do not quite agree) were to be used. In the second year after planting you began to form the columns by selecting the likeliest boughs and binding them with osiers to a wooden post, and cutting off the rest. The arches were formed by binding hoops of wood to the posts and training the boughs to these as before. In the spandrels will be left a tuft of foliage, which you trim to the shape of an apple or any other form you please. Each column will be about 16 feet high—6 feet of plain stem, and 10 feet

for the column itself formed of the boughs and foliage. James's translation gives twice the breadth as the right proportion for the height of the arches, and adds that a hedge breast-high should be made between the columns, and niches and recesses for statues and seats formed in the palisade. The palisade was to be double—that is, planted in two rows with a grass walk in between, and between each column there was to be a border set with double gillyflowers, roses, or Indian pinks ; on the outer side there was to be a dwarf hedge of hornbeam 18 inches high. London and Wise describe other varieties of pleached work which sound suspicious. For instance, along the sides of walks or the borders of parterres elms might be planted and trimmed into round-headed standards, the stem quite bare for 6 feet or so from the ground, and the branches clipped into balls of foliage ; or hornbeam might be planted round the elm, and cut low to form the base, or balls of rose-trees formed between the standards. These could only look well if used with delicate tact and the greatest reticence ; unfortunately these were just the qualities in which the gardeners of the early eighteenth century were wanting. But a lilac walk formed with standards 12 feet apart, with stems 10 feet high, and a palisade of hornbeam in between, sounds better ; and London and Wise mention a hedge of *pyracantha* to go round a narrow place enclosed with walls, which

in colour and form might be quite beautiful. At regular intervals cypress-trees were to be planted, with stems kept bare for 8 or 10 feet, and the spaces between were to be filled up with a hedge of pyracantha cut close against the wall.

At the end of the seventeenth century the laying out of groves was regularly included in garden design. In the earlier Renaissance garden little was done in this direction except in the way of mazes; a space outside the garden was often reserved for a wilderness such as Bacon describes, in which design was purposely abandoned. But the growing tendency was to reduce the garden to a system, till it reached its climax in the school of Le Nôtre, and the *bosquet* or grove of regular form took the place of the wilderness. Chapter vi. of *The Theory and Practice of Gardening* is entirely devoted to "woods and groves." "Their most usual forms are the star, the direct cross, the Saint Andrew's Cross, and goose-foot.<sup>1</sup> They nevertheless admit of the following designs, as cloisters, quincunxes, Bowling-greens, Halls, cabinets, circular and square compartments, halls for comedy, covered halls, natural and artificial arbours, fountains, isles, cascades, water galleries, green galleries, etc." These groves were to be laid out with

<sup>1</sup> The "goose-foot," *patte-d'oie*, consisted of three avenues radiating from a small semicircle. The three great avenues at Hampton Court, with the semicircular garden, form a goose-foot.



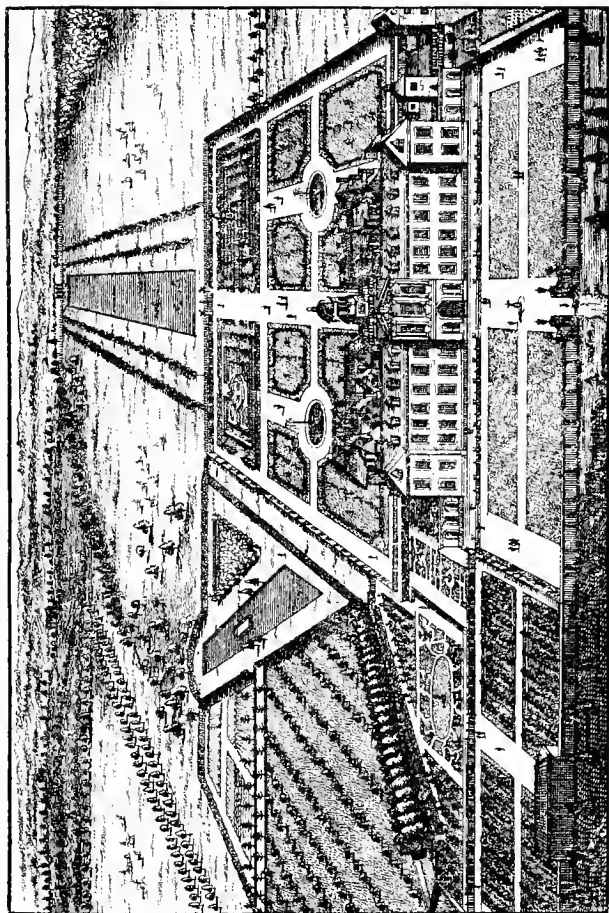


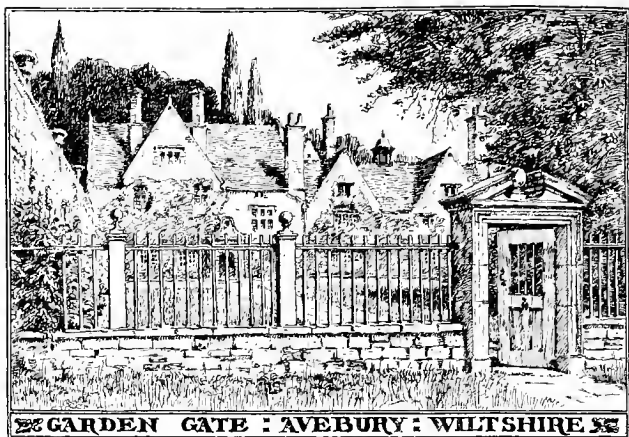
FIG. 35.—Wrest, from Kip.

walks from 12 to 24 feet wide, separated from the trees by palisades. The trees in these groves were not supposed to exceed 40 feet in height or thereabouts, and they might either have underwood or not, as desired. Where there was no underwood, trees—such as limes, elms, or horse-chestnuts—were to be planted in regular lines at right angles to each other, the stems kept bare for 10 feet and the trees set out about 15 feet apart. The ground underneath was either fine gravelled, or laid with grass. In the latter case a circle about 4 feet across, without grass, was to be left round each tree. There are good examples of groves laid out to a regular design at Wrest and Melbourne, but the best instances of this sort of work are to be found in France. In many towns and villages on the banks of the Seine between Paris and Rouen, and elsewhere in France, there are charming groves of lime-trees, symmetrically planted and regularly clipped. The groves at Versailles are still much as Le Nôtre left them. The great walks of lime-trees, close trimmed for 20 feet or more, and the halls cleared in the groves and set out with statues are very beautiful on a sunny day; but the rest of the work is dull, and there can be no doubt that this kind of work does require great space and great expense to be seen to perfection. In *The Theory and Practice of Gardening* forty-four

different designs are given for the largest groves. Some are simple enough, but most of them are absurdly elaborate, more particularly a design of a labyrinth (like a Catherine wheel) with cabinets and fountains, which it would be quite impossible to carry out. Over-elaboration, incapacity for self-suppression, these were the vices which wrecked the formal garden, and opened the way for every kind of imposture. With evident complacency, London and Wise remarked that it is certain "the Industry of Gard'ners was never equal to what it is now." It is also certain that this misapplied industry was foredoomed to failure, and that the disappearance of the formal garden was its inevitable result.



**THE WATER PAVILION: WREST: BEDFORDSHIRE**



## CHAPTER VIII

### GARDEN ARCHITECTURE

BRIDGES, GATEHOUSES, GATEWAYS, GATES,  
WALLS, BALUSTRADES, STAIRS

SINCE the disappearance of the formal garden, the necessity of scholarly design for garden buildings has been forgotten, and the result is seen in buildings and details, which are not simple and childlike, but wholly pretentious and bad. This is not solely due to the enterprise of the landscape gardener. The fault lies also with his employer, who, perhaps,

prefers the cast-iron finials and meagre wood-work of his conservatory, and possibly takes pleasure in the grotesque impossibilities of his rustic summer-house, but who on any showing, has not realised that art has to be taken as a whole, that it must penetrate everywhere, that it is not enough to have a well-designed house, if everything inside it is vulgar ; or a house complete, with a meaningless garden ; or a fair house and garden, with no thought given to its walls and gateways. Till the end of the eighteenth century a tradition of good taste existed in England—a tradition not confined to any one class, but shown not less in the sampler of the village school than in the architecture of the great lord's house. It might be said to have lingered on into this century in sleepy country towns. Behind the lawyer's house, with its white sash-windows and delicate brick work, there may still survive some delightful garden bright with old-fashioned flowers against the red-brick wall, and a broad stretch of velvety turf set off by ample paths of gravel, and at one corner, perhaps, a dainty summer-house of brick, with marble floor and panelled sides ; and all so quiet and sober, stamped with a refinement which was once traditional, but now seems a special gift of heaven.

It would be impossible here to give more than a general sketch of the details of garden architecture. The field is a wide one, and

could only be fully handled in relation to the art of the time. Such subjects as bridges and gate-houses, for instance, would take their place in a specific treatise on architecture. Where the house, as was often the case, was surrounded by water, the enclosure was reached by a bridge, sometimes of wood, more often of brick or stone. There is only one point to be noticed here in regard to these bridges, and that is, that as much thought and architectural knowledge were devoted to their details as were spent on those of the house. No such ragged and rickety structure as "the rustic bridge" would have been tolerated in the formal garden. The bridge at Clare (College), Cambridge, designed by a builder-architect, is a simple and very beautiful example, and perhaps there is no better instance in the whole range of garden architecture in England which shows more clearly the absolute interdependence of architecture and garden design. On the other hand these bridges were sometimes unnecessarily sumptuous. The well-known example at Blenheim is a standing monument of Vanbrugh's megalomania. The Palladian bridge at Wilton is a fine piece of academical design, but it is rather unreasonable in England. When the landscapists were destroying the formal garden they preserved some of its worst features, among them the Palladian bridge, which was repeated literally both at Stowe and Prior Park.

The gatehouse in the sixteenth century

usually formed part of the block of house buildings, and was marked by rising one storey above the rest. The gateway of a college quadrangle is a familiar instance. When the fore court

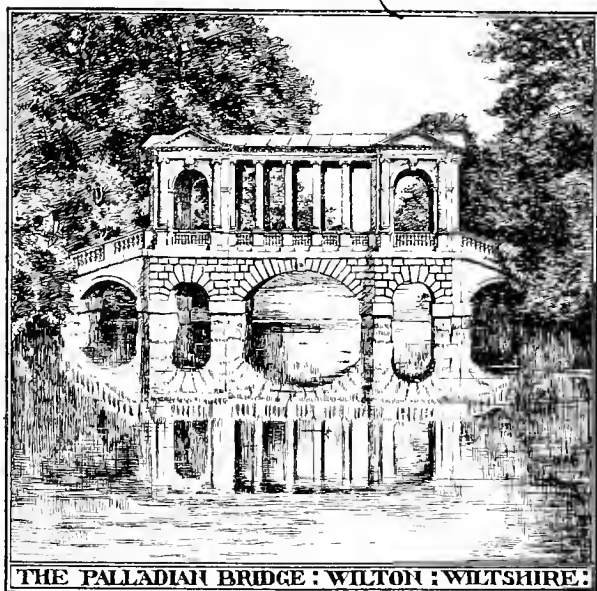


FIG. 36.

developed into a well-defined courtyard the gateway was detached from the house, but still continued to be a building of two or more storeys, with wing walls to the right and left joining the side walls of the court. Charlccote, in Warwickshire, and Burton Agnes, near

Bridlington, in Yorkshire, are good examples in brick and stone. At Lanhydrock, in Cornwall, there is a curious two-storey gatehouse in stone, standing at the end of a fine avenue of sycamores, 37 paces wide, with counter avenues of beeches 16 paces wide. Another remarkable gatehouse is that of Westwood, in Worcestershire, shown in Kip's views. This is probably Elizabethan. The gateway is set back between two projecting bays with stone gables. The wall between is of brick, the upper part of open strapwork in stone. Over the centre of the building rises a square stage of oak framing, slated, for a clock or bell. In Atkyns's *Gloucestershire* (p. 340) a view is given of Shipton Moyne, showing a gatehouse flanked with turrets, and a room over the arch, apparently reached by steps from a raised terrace running round the fore court. There is a somewhat similar instance at Bolsover Castle. The gateway stands in a polygonal wall of sufficient thickness to admit of a walk along the top all round the court, this walk being reached from a small door from the first floor of the keep. The gateway of Hardwick House, with its open strapwork, is a very ugly instance of a gatehouse to the fore court in one storey. The gateway was sometimes flanked on either hand by small one-storey buildings for a porter's lodge, as at Ribston, in Yorkshire; or the gateway was simply an archway in the courtyard wall,



with a cornice and gable or pediment over. There is a curious instance at Bradshaw Hall, in Derbyshire, 1620. With the introduction of long avenues a further change was made. The gatehouse in front of the house interfered with the view of the façade. The fore court was accordingly enclosed with wrought-iron railings on a low wall, and elaborate entrance gates between piers of masonry or brickwork, and the gatehouse was shifted to the other end of the avenue. There are many instances of these gatehouses or lodges dating from the eighteenth century. In all cases their details follow those of the architecture of the house. The later instances of the eighteenth century degenerated into various versions of little Greek temples, rather ridiculous to look at, and quite unsuitable for the lodge-keepers to live in. The best position for the gatehouse would be high level ground overlooking the park. The one place where it should never stand is on the side of a hill, for the simple reason that while the gates are being opened carts and carriages have to stand on a slope. There is an instance of this at Prior Park, near Bath.

The main entrance gateway was usually placed in the centre of the fore court, opposite the front door, though this position was varied to suit particular cases. In smaller houses the gateway stood at the end of a broad flagged path leading up to the house, and visitors had

to alight in the road outside. These gateways were sometimes arched, and sometimes consisted simply of stone or brick piers. There is a good instance in the town of Wilton of a small gateway with a circular arch, flanked by pilasters, with a circular pediment over and stone brackets at the sides. On either side of the gateway are wing walls completing the semicircle. There are instances at Bradford-on-Avon and many other places. They are usually quiet and simple in detail and excellently built, for the masonry of the eighteenth century is probably the best that ever was done in England. The piers on either side of the gates show every variety of design. The most familiar instance is the square pier of brick or stone with moulded base and top, and a great stone cannon-ball. These seem to have come into use in the latter part of the seventeenth century, and to have lasted to the beginning of this. There are many instances in London. Those at Ashburnham House are well known. There is a late but very well-designed example (about 1780) in the Euston Road, at the entrance to Maple's timber-yard. At Eyam Hall, Derbyshire, the piers are of stone, divided by bands into three carved panels. At Risleigh the piers are of brick for a height of 8 feet 6 inches; above this is a stone pedestal 2 feet 9 inches high, with cannon-ball finials. The piers are 9 feet apart, and the wing walls with the gate form half an

ellipse 38.0 long. There are fine examples at Swarkestone, in Derbyshire, and Mapperton, in Somersetshire. Besides the cannon-balls, urns of all sorts were placed on the top of the piers, as at Okeover, in Staffordshire, and the great brick piers in Lincoln's Inn Fields, attributed to Inigo Jones; or obelisks, as at

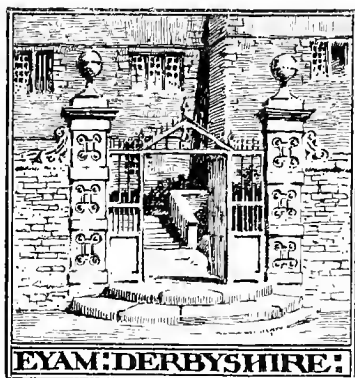


FIG. 37.

Canons Ashby and Hardwick; or eagles, as in the Gray's Inn gardens; or heraldic beasts or devices, as at Montacute and Canons Ashby; or trophies of arms, as in the gateway at Hampton Court. The piers themselves were varied indefinitely. Those at Groombridge Place have an additional pier on the outer side, with a niche for a seat. At Scalby, near Scarborough, the piers consist of two small towers,

about 3 feet in diameter, with cornices and stone domed roof. The most difficult of all to design satisfactorily is the plain pier and cannon-ball.

Besides the main gateway, there were the gate-



FIG. 38.

ways in garden-walls, leading from the fruit to the flower garden, or from one part of the garden to another, or from the paddock to the garden. Markham says "the false gate (otherwise called the back or field-gate) in that side toward your meadow, made for your going in

or out alone, shall be set out and garnished with two chevrons, set upon one maine timber and no more, and foure or five battlements." At Coley Hall, near Halifax, there is a garden gateway of stone not unlike Markham's description. It is dated 1649, and there are good seventeenth-century examples at Orwalle, in North Hants, and Stibbington Hall, in Huntingdonshire. The stepped battlement form was commonly used for brick and stone gateways; there is a curious seventeenth-century example

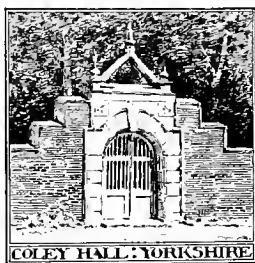


FIG. 39.

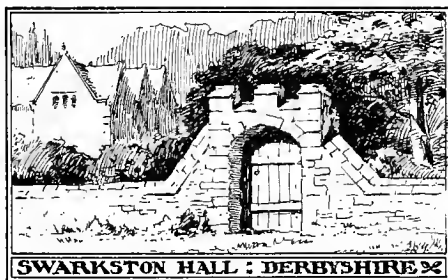


FIG. 40.

on the terrace at Risley. The gateway stands at the head of a flight of steps leading to the terrace. In the centre is a square-headed door

flanked by niches on both sides, and above is a blank piece of wall with a stepped gable, with stepped side walls descending to the lower walk. These walls draw in as they approach the centre wall. The gateway to the churchyard at Martock (1627) is another simple instance of a stone gateway at the head of a flight of steps. The gateway at Tissington, in Derbyshire, is rather unusual; it appears to date from the middle of the seventeenth century. In the wall to the side terrace at Penshurst there is a good brick gateway of about the same date or a little earlier.

The gates themselves were usually of wrought iron of every degree of elaboration, from the plain bar and rail to such intricate work as Tijou's splendid gates for Hampton Court. The hundred years, from the Restoration onward, is the golden age of smith's work in England. Tijou's example gave the craft an impetus in an entirely new direction; wrought-iron gates of beautiful design and admirable workmanship were turned out in every part of the country, and it is not easy to account for the strong family resemblance between instances as far apart as Sydenham, in Devonshire, Chiddingstone, in Kent, or the Chelsea gates, the delicate work at Oxford or Cambridge, and the various examples scattered about in Derbyshire and the north. The gates and railings to New College Gardens and the Trinity gates at Oxford

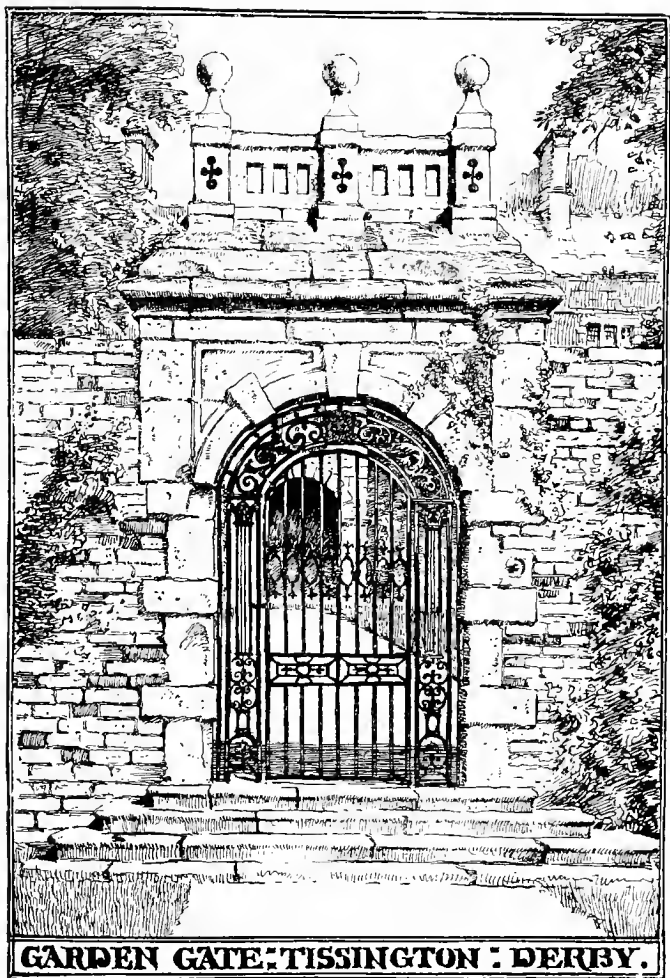


FIG. 41.

are characteristic instances of eighteenth-century work. It appears, from the diary of Celia Fiennes, that these gates were usually painted blue and gold. The worst of it is that about the time that the ironwork is supposed to want repainting, the blue reaches the very perfection of its colour. It has taken its place in nature, and this is the difficulty about all external painting. It is no use starting with delicate shades of green and blue ; the colour flies and a cold uninteresting gray is left. It is best to start with a good strong coat of honest green, and leave it to the sun and rain to bring about the refinements of colour seen in old painted work. This beautiful art of wrought-iron work might well be employed again more freely in garden gates and grilles. It is very unobtrusive, and it is pleasant to come upon its subtle workmanship, set in the rough surface of the garden-wall. Like many other handicrafts, it has gone down before the cry for cheapness. People supposed that they got the sort of thing in cast-iron work at a tenth of the price, and they are quite satisfied with "the sort of thing," the *à peu près*, provided it is cheap, forgetting first that there is no pleasure in a mechanical repetition even if the original is good, and secondly, that cast iron is a perfectly unsuitable material for gates. Cast iron is brittle and heavy ; it is well enough for stationary work, but it is apt to fly at a sudden jar, and to gain the necessary strength it must be



made clumsy and awkward. A wrought-iron gate can be made as light as you please, and instead of being an inert mass, it has a tough vitality of its own. The craft as usual lingered longest in the country. In the villages of Somerset and Devonshire there are still to be seen pretty little wrought-iron gates to the cottage gardens, not yet supplanted by the odious castings of the hardware dealer.

The garden-walls should be of brick or stone, brick for preference, because it is better adapted for nailing fruit-trees, and retains the heat better than stone, and the creepers cling to it more readily. Rea gives 9 feet as the proper height for the outer wall of the garden, and 5 or 6 feet for cross-walls. Markham says that "james or offshoots" should be built 12 or 14 feet apart as buttresses to reduce the amount of brickwork and shelter the fruit. Worlidge, who repeats this advice, adds that pieces of wood should be built in, or iron hooks to project about 3 or 4 inches from the wall, to carry wooden rails to which the fruit-trees can be fastened. There is a good instance of plain walling at Hampton Court beside the Long Walk. The offsets are 18 inches wide, composed of blocks of stone alternating with five courses of brickwork; a moulded stone coping covers the top, the section of which is changed when it returns round the offsets. The copings can be of brick on edge with tile creasings, or of stone, or of brick

variously arranged. The garden-walls of Ham House have a rather elaborate brick coping. The buttresses came to be treated as piers with moulded cornices and finial balls or urns, and the wall space between was treated variously, either kept low with an iron grille between the piers, as was commonly done at the end of walks or where any particular view was desired ; or the wall and its coping was shaped as a curve rising to the piers on either side. At Pendell House the wall along the raised walk at the end of the garden is built with great flat curves between the piers some 35 feet apart. Instead of buttresses, the wall was sometimes built on a serpentine line, as at Stubbers, in Essex. By means of the resistance of the curves on plan, a thin wall would stand without buttresses ; but the effect is not pleasant, and a good deal of ground is wasted. A thin wall in the garden looks poor ; the old garden-walls were seldom less than 18 inches thick, and some were thick enough to contain bee-hives and peacock-hutches. At Packwood House, in Warwickshire, on the south side of the terrace-wall there are thirty small niches for bee-hives, two and two between the piers ; and at Riddlesden, in Yorkshire, there still exist the cells for peacocks, built into the thickness of the garden-wall. There are four of these, two above and two below, with shelves for nesting. The lower pair have hooks for doors, which are gone, the

upper pair have shaped stone heads. The gardens of Edzell Castle have a remarkable stone wall, divided into bays, 10 to 11 feet wide, by engaged shafts rising up into a string course. These bays have alternately a single recess 3 feet by 2.6, and three rows of smaller recesses about 1.4 inches square arranged chequer-wise—all the recesses appear to have been used for planting flowers in them. Above the single recesses there are bas-reliefs representing emblematical figures; above the smaller ones three stars. Over the centre of each bay is a niche with a circular pediment.

The retaining walls under terraces were often treated in the same way; niches for statues, recesses for seats, as at Kilworthy, in Devon, grottoes, and toolhouses were often built in below the terrace level. There is a cellar of this description under one of the terraces at Penshurst. Worlidge describes a grotto to be made under a terrace. It was to be arched over with stone or brick, or the roof might be of stone supported by pillars of mārble. The sides were to be of stone and the floors of marble. If there were any secret rooms to the grotto, they might be made with "tables" of stone or marble. He mentions a grotto at Wilton as famous in his time. In stone countries the retaining walls were of stone; elsewhere they were usually of brick with stone balustrades and flights of steps. The commonest

form of balustrade, and on the whole the most satisfactory, consisted of stone balusters with moulded plinths and copings divided up by solid piers. There is a good simple instance at Woolley Green, near Bradford-on-Avon, and a late example at Brympton, in Somersetshire. At Brympton there is a broad flight of steps

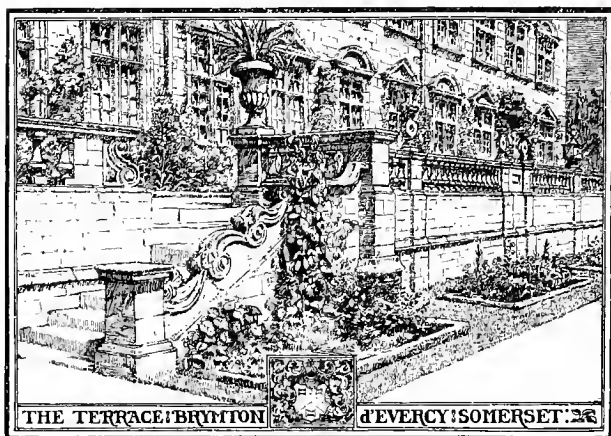


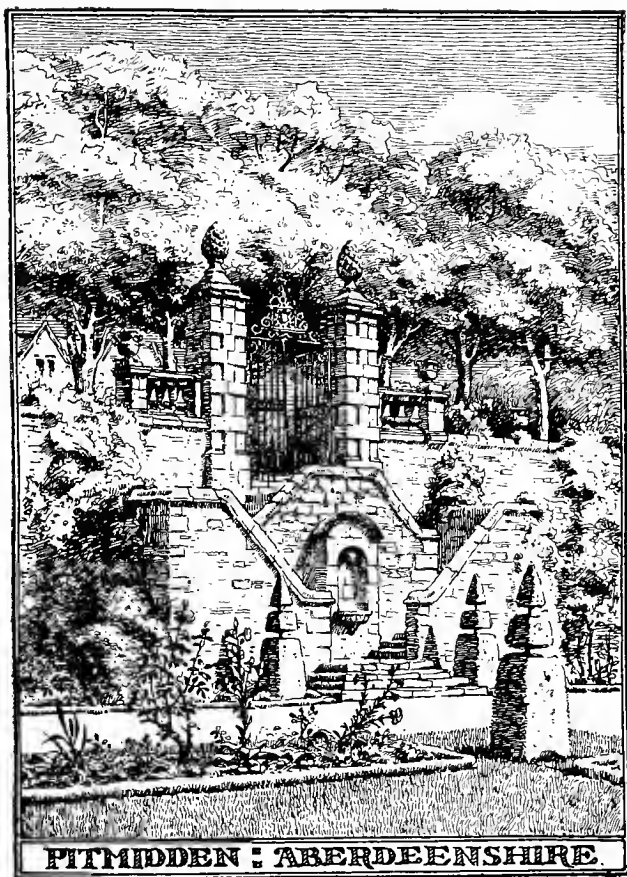
FIG. 42.

in the centre, and two smaller flights arranged at right angles to the terrace near the ends. The piers have urns, with one exception, where there is a sun-dial on the sides of a square die. This terrace was built at the beginning of this century; its general effect is very good, though the detail is poor, and the balusters are crowded and too short. There is an excellent piece of

balustrading on either side of the entrance to the fore court at Brympton. The balusters are 2 feet 6 high, 12 inches centre to centre, and stand on a plinth 3 feet 3 high. It appears to have been built towards the end of the seventeenth century. About 2 feet 9 inches to 3 feet from the ground to the top of coping is a good height for the balustrade ; no rule, however, can be given for its proportions, as these depend entirely on individual circumstances and the scale of the work. The solid piers ought not to be too far apart, and the relation of the solids to the voids—that is, of the piers to the open spaces between the balusters—is a point of the first importance. Many variations on this simple type of balustrade are to be found. The terrace at Risley has obelisks on the piers and flat stone balusters between, a feature commoner in wood than stone. The terrace at Haddon has six small stone arches to each bay. The height is 3 feet, width from centre to centre of piers 11 feet 6 inches ; the steps measure 12 inches by 5. At Kingston House, Bradford-on-Avon, the balustrade to the terrace (much restored) is formed of panels of stone  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches thick, pierced with open work of alternate lozenges and ovals, with engaged balusters to the piers, and stone urns of various designs. At Montacute the terrace-walls on either side of the garden at the back of the house have simple balustrades with obelisks to the piers,

and in the centre of each side there is a curious temple of stone ; six pillars support a circular stone roof with a projecting cornice on brackets, and an open cupola above, formed of three stone ribs joining at the top and terminating in an open ball formed of two intersecting circles of stone. Instances of terraces with retaining walls but no balustrade are not common. There is an instance at Cothele, in Cornwall, where the two upper terraces have low retaining walls of stone but no balustrade, and the third terrace has a grass bank. The grass bank is the better treatment and looks well with simple flights of stone steps. The terrace of Etwall Hall, Derbyshire, is a good example of this.

In the French gardens the flights of steps leading from the terrace to the lower levels were very elaborate. In James's translation several diagrams are given of the great French instances. In England the steps were usually laid out in plain rectangular flights, though circular and curved steps were often used for short flights. There is a good instance of a semicircular flight at the end of the house terrace to Eyam Hall ; and occasionally the flight of steps widened out as it descended with a winding balustrade, as in the steps to the entrance of Wootton Lodge, in Staffordshire. In the eighteenth century, when people were more ambitious and the mason exulted in his



**FITMIDDEN : ABERDEENSHIRE.**

FIG. 43.

skill, flights of steps were formed of great technical difficulty. There is a remarkable instance at Prior Park. A flight of seventeen steps leads from the terrace to a landing, and then two flights of eighteen steps lead off from either side of the landing, curving round and widening out as they go. It is a masterpiece of masonry, but not very beautiful, for the staircase has an uncomfortable suggestion about it of rolling down-hill. The simpler designs are the best; these *tours de force* of technical skill are a sure sign of failing taste.





## CHAPTER IX

### GARDEN ARCHITECTURE—*continued*

GARDEN-HOUSES, PERGOLAS, AVIARIES, COLUMBARIES, DOVE-COTES, HOT-HOUSES, CARPENTER'S WORK, FOUNTAINS, SUN-DIALS, STATUARY.

BANQUETING-HOUSES, gazebos, and garden-houses, all mean pretty much the same thing in an English garden. The origin of the word gazebo is obscure. It was used in the last century for the garden-house built at the corner of the terrace at the farther end of the garden, with outlooks to the ground or road outside. It was in two storeys, and the first floor was reached from the terrace. Pergola is, of course, Italian, and signified originally a trellis of wood

at the sides and overhead, supported at the angles by stone piers and pillars; over this trellis was trained the vine, to form a green



FIG. 44.

arbour. "Pergola" itself means a certain sort of grape. The term came to be used loosely for all covered look-outs. Evelyn mentions a plane and a lime-tree at Strasburg "in which is erected a pergola of 50 feet wide, and 8 feet

from the ground, having ten arches of 12 feet high, all shaded with their foliage." Johnson gives a passage where pergola is used for a part of the banqueting-house: "He was ordained his standing in the pergola of the banqueting-house"—that is, in the covered approach leading up to the banqueting-house.

Few examples of older pergolas remain. They were ruthlessly swept away by the landscape gardeners, and it is probable that their life in its original form would not be very long, as the trees inevitably grew out of shape. There is a beautiful modern pergola formed of apple-trees at Tyninghame.



FIG. 45

The banqueting-house was a term in common use in the seventeenth century. This was a solid building of brick or stone, in one or

two storeys, with windows and fire-place, and fitted up as an occasional sleeping-place as well as for use by day. The commonest forms were octagon or square, with a roof constructed either as a cupola or with two or four gables. Its position varied. It was usually placed at the ends of the raised terrace at the farther end of the garden. The example at Place House, Tenterden, has been already described (chap. v.);



FIG. 46.

other instances are shown in many of Logan's views of the colleges of Oxford and Cambridge. If there was a raised mount, the banqueting-house frequently crowned its top. Markham placed his "curious and artificial banqueting-house" over the ascent from the lower to the



FIG. 47.

upper garden. At Penshurst the garden-house stands to one end of the house terrace, at some distance in front of the house. Worlidge says it should be placed at an angle of the garden, with windows and doors commanding "every coast, the windows to be glazed with the clearest glass, and to have screens of printed and painted sarcenet for day use, and shutters of thin wainscot for night use." It is evident that the master of the house might occasionally lodge there for a day or two if he

wanted quiet. At the opposite end of the terrace there was to be a similar building for roots and seeds, which Worlidge says was usually termed a green-house. At Montacute the pleasure-houses are in two storeys, square,

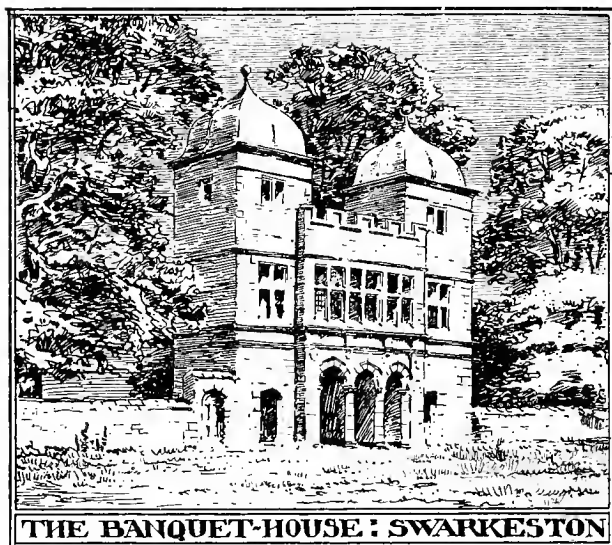


FIG. 48.

with semicircular bays on all four sides, and a slated cupola terminating in an open ball. At Swarkestone there is a large seventeenth-century building known as "the Balcony" which was the banqueting-house to the Hall, now destroyed. This building stands in the centre of the further

side of a square walled-in enclosure, measuring 76.0 paces by 61, which was once a garden. The building consists of two square towers with a colonnade in three bays between, open on the ground floor; above this was the banqueting-room,  $16.3 \times 14.0$ , covered in by a lead flat



FIG. 49.

with a stone parapet on both sides. The left-hand tower was occupied by the staircase, which communicated with the first floor and the flat; in the right-hand tower were rooms in three storeys. The towers are covered with lead cupolas. It is quite possible that the triangular lodge at Rushton, built by Sir Thomas Tresham, was intended to be used as a banqueting-house,

and there is little doubt that this was the intention of the building planned on pentagons at Amesbury, in Wilts. Over the door is the inscription, "Diana, her house," and the date. Of eighteenth-century work there are still a good many instances left. At Boxted Hall, in



FIG. 50.

Suffolk, the garden-house stands at one end of the fruit garden. The ground floor is open in front, with entrance in the centre between two stone columns, which support the upper storey, and wood balustrades between the columns and the wall. The upper storey is of brick with stone quoins, and has a gable roof, tiled, with a semi-circular window.

There is a good instance of a brick gazebo on the Wey canal, about 6 miles from Weybridge, dating probably from the beginning of the eighteenth century. This is a large square building with heavy projecting eaves, and a curiously hipped tile roof. It stands at one end of a raised walk some 7 feet high, with a solid

brick retaining wall and parapet, which overlooks the garden on one side and the canal on the other. A narrow strip of grass planted with flowers



FIG. 51.

separates the wall from the canal. In Lea Park Lane, Guildford, there is a two-storey garden-house, since converted to other uses, with a roof of similar design. Buildings such as Walton

and Cotton's fishing-house at Beresford, in Derbyshire (1674) (in stone and slate), and the water pavilion at Wrest (brick with lead dome) are to all intents and purposes garden-houses. After the middle of the eighteenth century the unpretentious comfort of these sober buildings did not satisfy the taste of the time. Greek temples and hermitages were thought more elegant, and these in turn gave way to the rustic summer-house with its draughts, its earwigs, and its beetles.

In the sixteenth century aviaries were occasionally built in the greater gardens. No instances of these are left; but a curious account of the aviary at Kenilworth is preserved in the description of the Queen's entertainment at Kenilworth in 1575. This aviary was 20 feet high, 30 long, and 14 broad. At about 5 feet from the ground there were four windows in the front and two at each end, with mullions, transoms, architraves, and circular heads. Between the windows there were piers with flat pilasters carrying an elaborate cornice, the frieze of which was decorated with imitations of precious stones, diamonds, rubies, emeralds, and sapphires, carved and painted. The building was not roofed in, and the windows had no glass, but instead fine wire netting was strained across the top and behind the windows. In the walls at the back niches were formed for the birds to roost in. The inside was planted



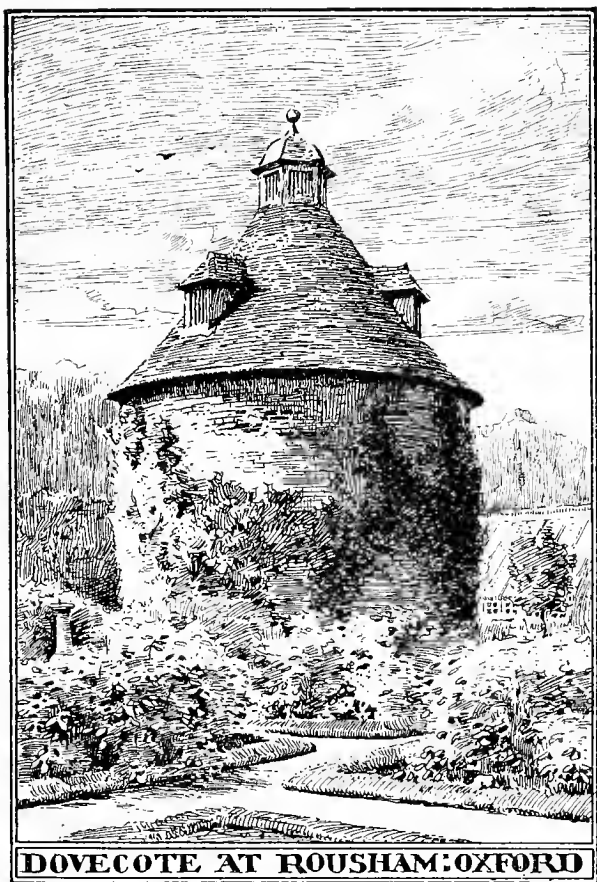


FIG. 52.

with holly-trees. Columbaries or pigeon-houses were, of course, quite indispensable to every country house. These were always placed at some distance from the house, and seldom inside the garden-walls. They were usually square or octagon, with gable roofs and a weather-cock or cupola forming a small open-air dove-cote at the top. Circular pigeon-houses are less common. There is an instance at Rousham in the rose garden. The interior was arranged with tiers of nesting-places built in the walls, and in some cases, as at Melton Hall, in Norfolk, and at Athelhampton, in Dorset, a revolving post stood in a socket in the centre with a projecting arm, to which a ladder was hung. By turning round the post access could be got to any part of the building. Evelyn mentions a "pigeon-house of most laudable example" at Godstone, in Surrey. Many of these pigeon-houses—such as the great square one at Southstoke, near Goring—are so exceedingly picturesque that there seems no reason for excluding them from the garden, and they are referred to for this reason, though, strictly speaking, they are outside the range of garden architecture. The ordinary barrel dove-cote on its high post was often put up in the garden. In an old garden near Southwater a dove-cote such as this forms the centre-piece of a square walled garden, with straight grass paths leading up to a circle in the centre,

and the effect is very good. In Badeslade's view of Sundridge Place, in Kent (1720), the dove-cote is shown standing in the centre of the fish-pond. The water-floor was occupied by the ducks; above this was a room with a balcony all round, and steps up from the water; and the upper part was pierced with holes and perches for the pigeons. A large octagonal wooden dove-cote on a wood trestle is shown in Logan's view of St. John's, Oxford.

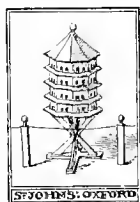


FIG. 53.

Hot-houses and orangeries do not seem to have been in use in England till the end of the seventeenth century. One of the earliest hot-houses is described by Olivier de Serres. It was built for the Elector Palatine of Heidelberg, and appears to have been a movable structure formed with great wooden shutters and windows. Evelyn mentions the orangery at Ham House; but this may have been only a plantation, and perhaps does not refer to the existing orange-house. Neither Worlidge nor London and Wise refer to the subject at all. The first orange-house with a glass roof is said to have been built at Wollaton in 1696. Evelyn, however, writing in 1677, mentions the conservatory at Euston, "some hundred feete long, adorn'd with mapps, as the other side is with heads of Cæsars, all cut in alabaster." In the eighteenth century a good many orange-

houses were built, in most cases from the designs of architects, and therefore with some regard to their effect. Sir W. Chambers's building at Kew, now used as a museum of woods, or the orangery at Mount Edgcumbe show that a conservatory or hot-house need not be the hideous thing to which the gardener has brought it. The hot-house or conservatory is necessary no doubt, but it is surely not necessary to reduce the mullions to mere strips of wood, and the power of the sun would not be seriously reduced by a few sash-bars instead of those vast sheets of blazing glass which inevitably spoil the beauty of any garden.

The carpenter found plenty of work to do in the old formal garden. In the first place he had to make the solid frames of wood, the *deambulationes ligneae horti*, which were necessary for the green walks and arbours. These frames were made of timber, wrought and square, nailed or pinned together, and painted green, with curved ribs for the arched tops. Instances are shown in De Caux's views of Wilton and several of Logan's plates, such as the view of Wadham Gardens. These framings became very elaborate at the end of the seventeenth century. Porticoes, colonnades with cornices and pediments, niches and shells, domes, lanterns, and other architectural details were carried out in wainscot and deal, and the plain spaces filled in with trellis-work of

wainscot oak, 1 inch square, framed into chequers, 6 or 7 inches square, and covered with roses, jessamine, and honeysuckle, or with lime, elm, or hornbeam. Evelyn describes a cupola in Sir Henry Capell's garden at Kew, "made with pole work, between two elmes, at the end of a walk, which, being covered by plashing the elmes to them, is very pretty." James gives a plate of designs for this work which are not attractive. It was costly and very soon fell out of repair, and was abandoned without much loss to the garden. Plain wooden arbours of planks or stout oak framing are often shown in old views of the seventeenth century, but no instances remain except one at Canons Ashby, which might date from the end of the seventeenth century. These were different in intention from the garden-house, as they were only made to shelter the garden-seat. There are two eighteenth-century instances at Melbourne. Worlidge says that the seats should be of wood, painted white or green, and set in niches in the garden-wall, or at the end of garden walks. They might be circular or square in plan. In the first case, half the circle would be inside the niche, the other half outside it, covered in by a cupola with a cornice on three or four columns of wood or



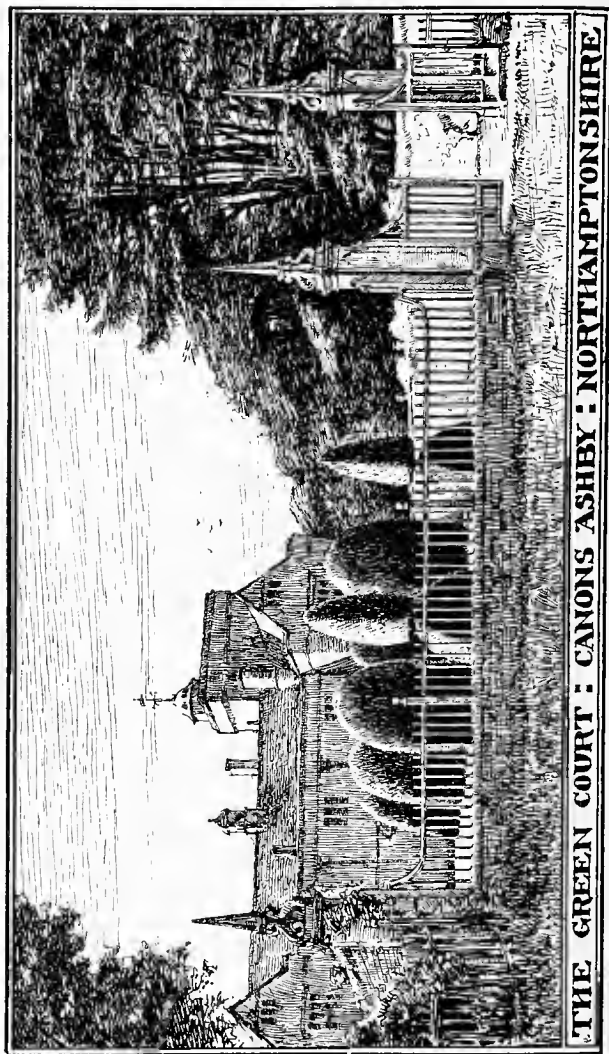
FIG. 54.

stone, the roof to be covered with lead, slates, or shingles. If they were square, about 2 feet would go inside the niche of the wall, and as much outside. The details of the seats would be much the same as that of the ordinary seventeenth-century settle. There is a good example at the end of the raised grass walk at Bingham Melcombe, in Dorset. Garden-seats of good simple design continued to be made till the beginning of the last century. The backs, instead of being framed in solid, were formed with a trellis of bars about an inch square, framed into panels of various design. The fashion appears to have been started by Sir William Chambers, who took it from the Chinese, though something of the same sort had been done before in wooden balustrades to stairs. Of wooden fences several varieties were in use. The commonest were palings—that is, pieces of wood about 3 to 4 inches wide and 3 to 4 feet high, with variously shaped heads, nailed to two rails. Worlidge gives as a variation a palisade of boards turned edgewise to the garden, the rails passing through the boards. The heads were to be shaped into two square spikes, with a space between. These ought to be raised above the ground on a low brick plinth. Wooden balustrades were rarely used. They are shown in Logan's view of Trinity, Cambridge. A common form of fencing, shown in Logan's views of Oxford and

Cambridge, consisted of a stout single rail, framed into square posts, the upper part of which was turned as a baluster or finial. At Tissington there is a good wooden railing next the park, formed of a stout moulded rail at top and bottom mortised into solid posts 1 foot by  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches. These posts are shaped like balusters. The wooden gates were often solid and panelled, and differ little from the doors of the time. The upper panel was often filled with vertical bars. There is a good example of a seventeenth-century wooden gate at Eyam Hall, and another at Canons Ashby. For large gates, iron was more often used.

The orange-trees which were set out on the terrace stood in cases, in order to be moved into shelter in winter. London and Wise recommended that the bottom should be perforated and filled in with oyster shells and potsherds, to let the water get away, and each side should be made with hinges to open, in order to get at the "hard, crusty, reticulated roots," and to water them and put in fresh earth. They give  $18 \times 18$  inches to each side as a dimension, but this is much too small. In the gardens at the back of the Hôtel de Ville, at Rouen, there are some good examples which measure 5 feet by 5, with angle posts 4 inches square, and planking  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches thick. All the sides are hinged.

Fountains of every description were always



THE GREEN COURT : CANONS ASHEY : NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



used in the garden. The beautiful conduit shown in the garden scene from "The Romance of the Rose," with its marble basin and runnel of water in a marble channel, shows its use in the mediæval garden. The Rev. Samuel Pegge, who wrote an account of Bolsover Castle in 1785, mentions that at Leigh Priory there used to be a fountain in brick "of several stories," and probably dating from the time of Henry VIII. At Nonsuch there was a marble fountain with a pelican carved above it, and fountains were made at Theobalds and Greenwich for James I. The fountain at Kenilworth had an octagonal basin 4 feet high, and large enough for carp, in the centre of which were two athletes of white marble, standing back to back, and carrying a ball "3 feet over," with the bear and ragged staff at the top. The sides of the basin were carved with Neptune, "Thetis in her chariot, drawn by her dolphins, there Triton by his fishes, here Proteus herding his sea-bulls, then Doris and her daughters, solacing on sea and sands," and with "whales and whirlpools, sturgeons, Tunnys, conchs and weaks." In the seventeenth century the ingenuity of the designer was spent in practical jokes—such as fountains which drenched you with water if you stepped on a hidden spring. The copper-tree at Chatsworth is a bad instance. But besides these, water-toys were much in fashion. Both Solomon and Isaac de Caux invented various

curious devices for waterwork. Solomon published his book in French at Frankfort in 1615. It contained designs for water organs and imitations of the notes of birds, and designs for raising water by means of air-tight vessels placed in the sun, made of copper, with burning glasses fixed in the sides. The work of Isaac de Caux was translated by John Leak (London, 1659). Plate XIV. gives a method for "divers birds, which shall sing diversely when an owl turns towards them, and when the said owl turns back again they shall cease their playing." Plate XV. gives an engine by which "Galatea shall be presented, which shall be drawn upon the water by two Dolphins, going in a right line and returning of herself, while a Cyclops plaies upon a Flagolett." Evelyn in 1662 says that at Hampton Court, "in ye garden is a rich and noble fountain, with syrens, statues, etc., cast in copper by Fanelli, but no plenty of water." Boecklern's *Hydragogica Nova*, published at Nuremberg in 1664, contains many designs for fountains, some of them in copper and lead. Several varieties of fountains with illustrations are given in Worlidge's book, including one or two unseemly practical jokes. Switzer wrote an *Introduction to a general System of Hydrostatics and Hydraulics . . . for the Watering of Noblemen's and Gentlemen's Seats, Buildings, Gardens, etc.*, but Switzer is exceedingly dull, and his designs are detestable.

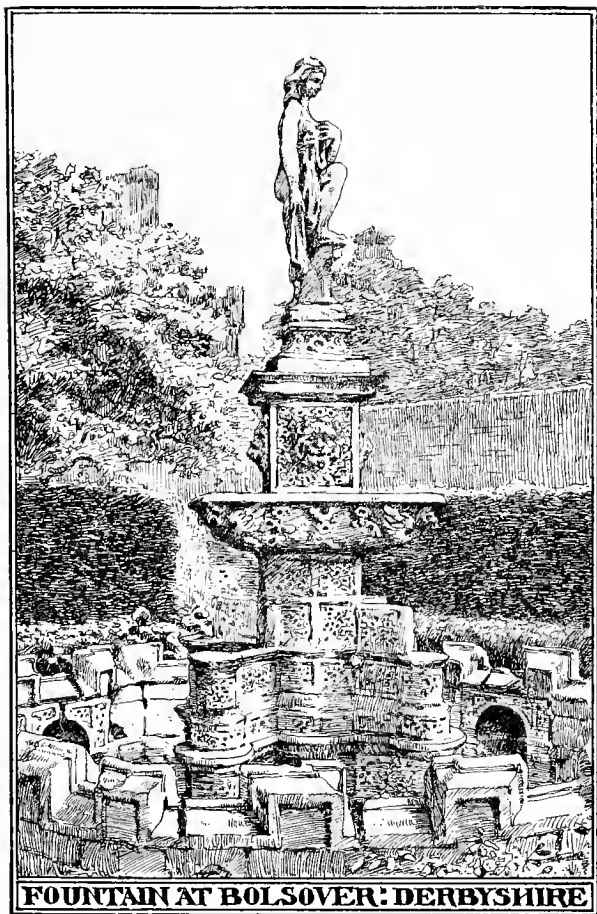


FIG. 56.

In many of Kip's views fountains of statuary are shown. One of the largest was at Longleat. Another famous fountain, that at Bolsover, is still left, though in a mutilated state. It was described by Pegge as consisting of an octagon reservoir, 6 feet deep, in which stood the fountain with engaged semicircular pedestals carrying griffins. In the angle were satyrs, sitting astride of eagles; in the sides (of the reservoir) were arched niches with busts of eight of the Roman emperors, made of alabaster. The centre-piece consisted of a square rusticated pedestal carrying a circular basin; above this was a figure of Venus in alabaster, standing on a pedestal with one foot raised. This fountain was fed from a lead cistern 20 feet square. The objection to fountains on such an elaborate scale as this is that they are very expensive to maintain, and without a constant supply of water they soon become squalid. The neglected fountains in the groves at Versailles are most melancholy to look upon. The fine marble curbs are falling to pieces, and, where bright water should be playing, weeds and grass are forcing their way through the cracks of the broken pavement. It is wiser to keep the fountain simple, and to be content with a plain well-built basin of brick or stone and some little figure in lead, as at Melbourne.

Sun-dials have always held an honoured place

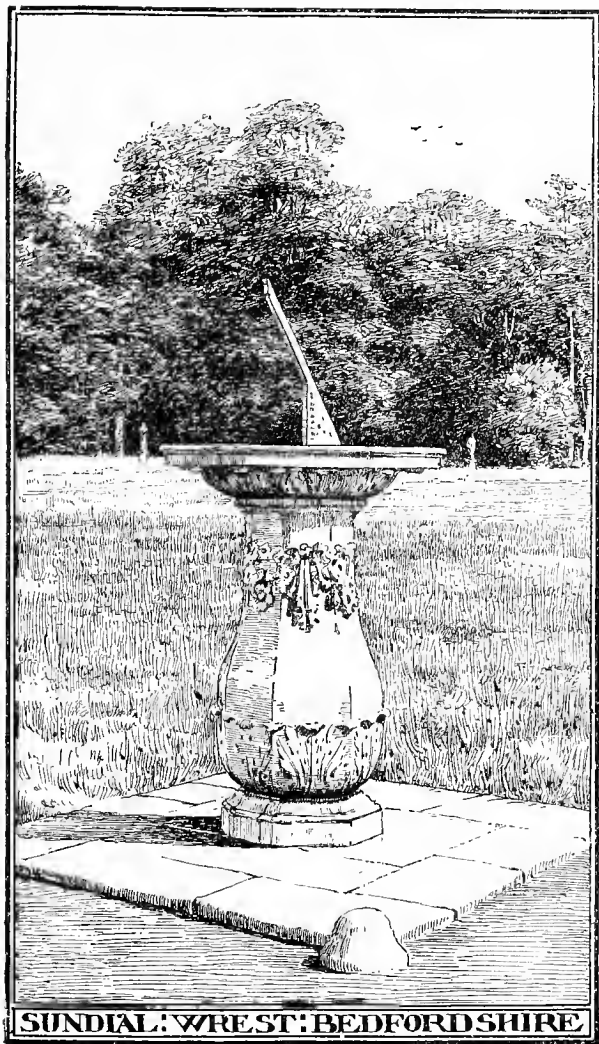


FIG. 57.

P

in the formal garden, sometimes on the terrace, sometimes as the centre of some little garden of lilies and sweet flowers. Every one loves them because they suggest the human interest of the garden, the long continuity of tradition which has gone before, and will outlive us. "*Pereunt et imputantur*," "*Scis horas, nescis horam*," "*Sine sole sileo*," "*Horas non numero nisi serenas*," "I mark time, dost thou?" Such were some of the mottoes used to point the lesson of the sun-dial. Instances of eighteenth-century sun-dials are still fairly common. There is a graceful example on the side terrace at Hampton Court and another rather similar instance at Wrest. At Wroxton Abbey, in Oxfordshire, there is a remarkable sun-dial; the plate is fixed on a moulded circular top, carried by four draped female figures, who stand on a square pedestal, the angles of which are decorated with rams' heads and swags of fruit and flowers. The pedestal stands on a circular step. The whole is executed in white marble, and, unless it is an importation, appears to date from the end of the eighteenth century, though the base looks much earlier. The dial plates were always of bronze, many of them very well engraved, and were, of course, designed by specialists who understood the intricate process of dialing, whether for side or top plates. In Scotland and the north of England sun-dials were often made of stone polygonal balls set on a pedestal

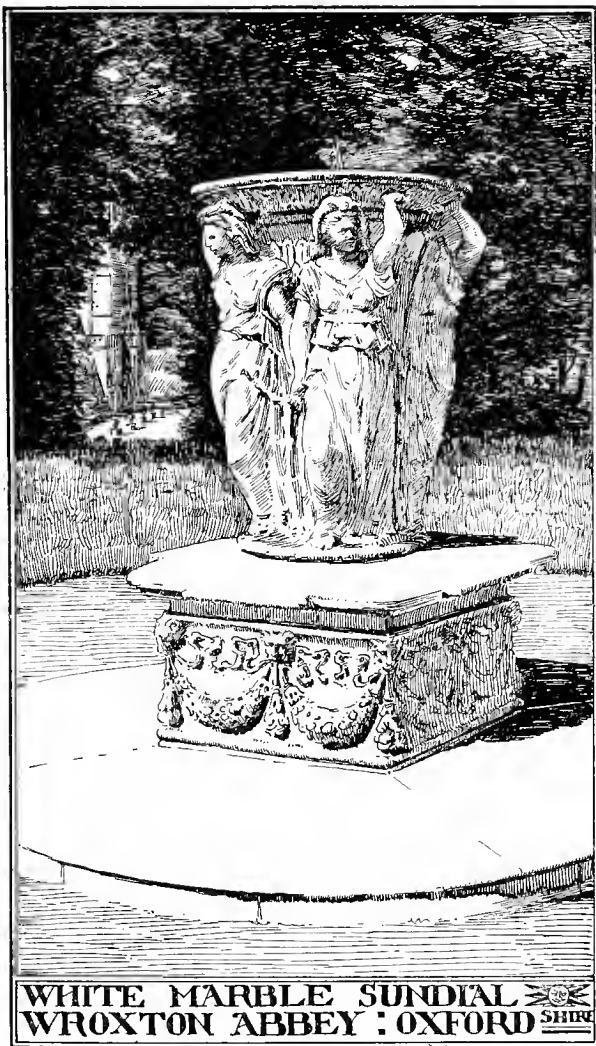


FIG. 58.

and carved into various mysterious scoops and hollows, which look exceedingly picturesque, but to the lay mind are unintelligible. There is a curious instance in the market-place at Wilton, apparently dating from the seventeenth century.

Statuary has never played such an important part in the English garden as it did on the continent, and this is probably due not merely to difference of climate, but to the greater sobriety of English taste. Wood, stone, marble, bronze, and lead have all been used for the purpose in England. The wooden beasts in Henry VIII.'s garden at Hampton Court have been already mentioned; these were painted no doubt in all sorts of cheerful colours, anyhow in red and green and white. Wood, however, is not a very suitable material for garden sculpture. Unless its forms are very simple, the sun and rain soon destroy its effect. Marble was often used in the more important seventeenth-century gardens, not only for fountains but for pieces of isolated statuary. In the gardens at Kenilworth in the centre of each of the four plots there stood obelisks 15 feet high, formed of a single piece of porphyry. The obelisks stood on a base 2 feet square, and were pierced, and carried a ball at the top 10 inches in diameter. At Wilton there were statues of Bacchus and Flora in white marble 8 feet high. Fortunately marble was found too





WHITE MARBLE SUNDIAL  
WROXTON ABBEY : OXFORD  SHIRE

costly for outside work. Marble statuary is a mistake in an English garden. To attain its full effect it wants strong sunlight, a clear dry light, and a cloudless sky. In the soft light



FIG. 60.

and nebulous atmosphere of the north marble looks forlorn and out of place. It does not colour like stone, and the qualities of which it is most capable—such as refinements of contour and modelling—are simply lost under an English sky. The same objection applies to bronze casts. Apart from their cost, bronze figures always retain their original hardness of form. They do not

lend themselves to the modelling of nature; they do not grow in with nature, as stone or lead. To the sculptor this would be a strong point in its favour, as, of course, it should be where houses and palaces and cities are concerned. But in the garden one wants something different; man's handiwork should be in suggestion rather than in evidence, and bronze figures are too trenchant,

too strong, if you like, to take their place among the gentler beauties of the garden. The only point in their favour is the beautiful patina they may acquire with age. Bronze or brass figures, as the older writers call them, were, however, occasionally used. At Wilton there was a statue of the gladiator in "brass," and James in his translation mentions such statues as common.

Stone is the proper material for carved work in an English garden, especially Portland stone. It is hard and weathers well, and few if any stones profit so much by exposure to the sun and rain. The harshness of its outlines becomes softened by time, and it will take on the most delicate colours, from the green stains of the pedestal to the pure white of the statue that gleams from under the deep canopy of yew. Instances of stone statuary in gardens earlier than the eighteenth century are not common in England. When the old formal gardens were destroyed by landscape gardeners, the stone terminal figures, the statues of Pan and Diana, were broken up to make the paths, or pitched aside into builders' yards, where a few melancholy survivors may still be found. Switzer, writing in 1718, refers to the great skill of the masons of his time, and even suggested that it would be a "work worthy of the Royal munificence to erect an Academy (*sic*), as is common in all other countries, especially in France and Italy, for the improvement of statuary. At present,"

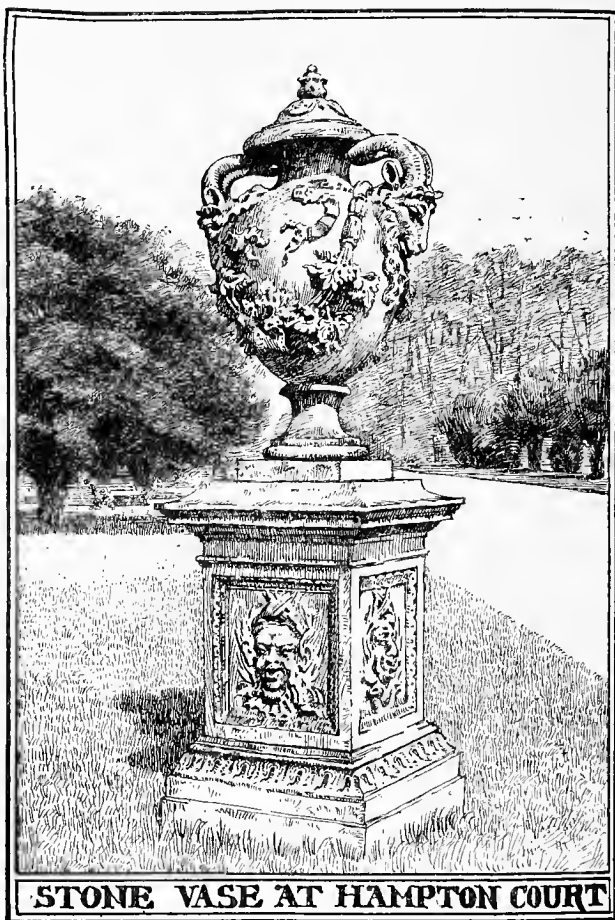


FIG. 61.

he continues, "we have only a few leaden tame copies."

Of all the materials, that most commonly used was lead. It was abundant in England and easily cast, and throughout the eighteenth century, particularly in the early part of it, leadwork was a very flourishing and important industry. It was used in the garden for tanks, cisterns, figures, and fountains, and vases of every description. There is a remarkable instance of a lead tank at St. Fagan's, near Cardiff, in front of the house. It is octagonal, about 8 feet in diameter and about 4 feet high; the sides are decorated with a band of foliage and arcading, such as is commonly found in seventeenth-century panelling. Lead was used for statues of every degree of importance. The equestrian figure of George I. at Canons, known as the Golden Horse, was of lead gilt all over. Statues from the antique were reproduced in lead—such as the figures in the courtyard at Knole, or the flying Mercury at Melbourne. Diana and her stag, the Seasons, Flora or Pan, the garden god, were favourite subjects for lead figures. Original work was also done, such as figures of haymakers, skaters, and gamekeepers. At Canons Ashby, at the end of the avenue leading up to the fore court, there is a lead figure of a shepherd in the dress of the eighteenth century playing on a flute; the figure is about 5 feet high. On a terrace over-

hanging the Ouse at Nun Monkton, in Yorkshire, there are set out allegorical figures of lead with gilded trappings. There are six lead figures over life size at Hardwick Hall. Four



FIG. 62.

of these stand on pedestals in niches of the yew-hedge round the great circle at the intersection of the paths; one represents painting, another a young man playing a shepherd's pipe, the third a female figure with a violin, the fourth a figure with a trumpet. The gardens at Melbourne are rich in lead figures; there are two of blacks carrying vases on salvers, rather like the one in the Temple gardens.

These are painted black with white drapery. Besides these there are heroic figures of Perseus and Andromeda beside the great water, and several cupids in pairs and single. The single figures are about 2 feet high. One has fallen off his tree, another is flying upward, another shooting, another shaping his bow with a spokeshave. All of these are painted and



LEAD VASE AT HAMPTON COURT:

some covered with stone-dust to imitate stone, a gratuitous insult to lead, which will turn to a delicate silvery gray, if left to its own devices ; but there is no doubt that these figures were often gilt and painted different colours. Melbourne also possesses the most magnificent lead vase in England. It stands on a stone pedestal some 5 feet 3 from the ground. The vase itself, which is over 7 feet high, is supported by four monkeys and richly ornamented ; its modelling is admirable.

Other good instances are to be found at Hampton Court, Wrest, and Penshurst. At Sprotborough, in Yorkshire, there are some vases, apparently from the same mould as those at Penshurst. At the same place there are two lead toads about 9 inches long, said to have belonged to the fountains, and no doubt suggested by those at Versailles. At Wootton, in a fountain behind the house, there is a lead duck suspended so as to swim on the water and spout water from its bill. There are many other instances of the use of lead for the details of garden ornament. It is a material that might well be brought into use again for the same purpose. It is durable and inexpensive, though it must not be used in a niggardly way. Lead statues very easily lose their centre of gravity, and when once they begin to move over they become exceedingly comic. The flying Mercury at





**LEAD VASE : PENSHURST, KENT**

FIG. 64.

Melbourne is slowly taking a header into the grass in front of his pedestal. Lead has a beautiful colour of its own, and it is not, like bronze or marble, a material too grand and sumptuous for use in the quiet English garden. These figures are invaluable for giving a point of interest here and there. They are charming in summer, when "the lilac waves its plumes above them, and the syringa thrusts its flowers under their arms,"<sup>1</sup> and when autumn has dropped its last red leaf at their feet, they will carry the memory of summer through the dreary days of winter.

<sup>1</sup> W. R. Lethaby. Mr. Lethaby says that during the War of Independence many of those lead figures were exported to America as "works of art" in order to be melted down into bullets.

## CHAPTER X

### CONCLUSION

THE disregard of conditions which the landscape gardener shows in dealing with the house and garden is even more conspicuous in his treatment of public grounds. For some inscrutable reason the laying out of public grounds is usually left either to the engineer or to the landscape gardener. The engineer is, no doubt, a man of ability and attainment, but there is nothing in his training to qualify him to deal with a problem which is in the main artistic; and the landscape gardener makes it his business to dispense with serious design. The result is that our public spaces are seldom laid out on any principle at all. For instance, a London square is an entirely artificial affair. It is bounded by rectangular blocks of buildings, and straight roads and fences. It would only be reasonable to adhere to this simple motive; but hand this over to the landscape gardener and he will at once set to work to contradict

the whole character of the place by means of irregular curves and irrelevant hummocks. His dislike of a simple straight line and a plain piece of grass amounts almost to a mania. In Bloomsbury, till within the last few years, there existed a good old-fashioned square garden, laid out in four grass plots, with a lime walk and a border of flowers running round the sides. It was restful and pleasant to look at. The grass plots were good for lawn-tennis and the lime walks kindly to the citizen; but the landscape gardener appeared on the scene and speedily put all this to rights. He cut up the grass plots and destroyed two sides of the lime walk, and heaped up some mounds, and made the most curiously unreasonable paths; and went his way, having destroyed one of the few square gardens in London with any pretence to design. Instead of trying to treat the square as a whole, or, better still, instead of leaving it alone, he deliberately turned his back on the adjacent architecture, and produced a result which has no distinction but that of immense vulgarity.

Much more might be done in the way of planting avenues of trees along the approaches to towns and in the towns themselves. Evelyn mentions the road from Heidelberg to Darmstadt, which was planted all the way with walnuts, and an avenue of 4 leagues long and 50 paces wide, "planted with young oaklings, as straight

as a line, from the city of Utrecht to Amersfoort." The road from Hoorn to Alkmaar, in North Holland, and from Hoorn to Enkhuizen, passes for miles under an avenue of elms. "Is there," Evelyn says, "a more ravishing or delightful object, than to behold some entire streets and whole towns planted with these lime-trees in even lines before their doors, so as they seem like cities in a wood?" Mr. Robinson's views to the contrary are significant. In his *Garden Design*, p. 50, he asserts that "the ugliest things in the fair land of France are the ugly old lines of clipt limes which deface many French towns." In regard to this assertion, I would only repeat,<sup>1</sup> that the depth of colour, the play of reflected light, the extreme brilliancy of the isolated spots of sunshine, which result from these close-clipt masses of leafage, must surely appeal to a person of quite ordinary sensibility. But the point of serious moment in Mr. Robinson's pronouncement is its hopeless modernism in the worst sense. It shows an insensibility to what has been done in the past, and an unconsciousness of a whole world of thought, which together constitute one of the most fatal tendencies of modern design. Out of a mind well stored with knowledge and tradi-

<sup>1</sup> Preface to the second edition of this book. I may also refer to a paper on "Public Spaces, Parks, and Gardens," in a series of lectures on the building and decoration of cities, by members of the Arts and Crafts Society (Rivington, 1897).

tion good original ideas may come, but what are we to expect from a mind stored with the ideas of the Great Exhibition of 1851? We are to expect exactly what we have got in most of our modern parks and public gardens, and we cannot feel very sanguine as to any prospects of improvement. The London County Council have shown a wise anxiety to secure public spaces whenever possible, but when they have got them their advisers seem very uncertain as to how they should deal with them. They waste the public money in humps and earthworks, and economise in kiosques and cast-iron fountains, and this, though there are admirable models to follow in the gardens of the Luxembourg and the Tuileries and in most of the important cities of Europe. Nowhere is the provincialism of modern English thought more clearly shown than in our State and municipal dealings with art.

In dealing with great spaces the landscape gardener seems to have little idea of mass. He is for ever breaking up the outline with little knots of trees, and reducing the size of his grounds by peppering them all over with shrubs. The consequence is that though one may feel weary with traversing his interminable paths, no permanent impression of size is left on the mind. Such a place, for instance, as Battersea Park is like a bad piece of architecture full of details which stultify each other. The

only good point in it is the one avenue, and this leads to nowhere. If this park had been planted out with groves and avenues of limes, like the boulevard at Avallon, or the squares at Vernon, or even like the east side of Hyde Park between the Achilles statue and the Marble Arch, at least one definite effect would have been reached. There might have been shady walks, and noble walls of trees, instead of the spasmodic futility of Battersea Park, and without pedantry the principles of formal garden design should be applied to public grounds and parks. A dominant idea should control the general scheme. Merely to introduce so many statues or plaster casts is to begin at the wrong end. These are the accidents of the system, not the system itself, and this is why the attempt at formal gardening at the head of the Serpentine was such a failure. The details were not particularly well designed, but even if they had been, it was essentially inartistic to plump them down in the midst of incongruous surroundings.

Perhaps of all the unsatisfactory public places in England the worst is the public cemetery. Here again one finds the same disregard of decent order, the same hatred of simplicity, the same meanness of imagination. Here, if anywhere, all pettiness, all banalities should be avoided. We want rest, even if it is sombre in

its severity ; but instead we are offered narrow winding roads and broken pillars under weeping willows, everything that can suggest the ghastly paraphernalia of the undertaker. Why not have long walks of yew at once, with cypress-trees or junipers ? But the landscape gardener is nothing if not "natural," and so he gives us a bad copy of an ill-chosen subject. Only nature left alone can create her own particular beauty, and only in the churchyard of some far-away village can her work be judged, where the grass grows tenderly over the dead, and the graves are shaded by immemorial yews, and the sun-dial patiently wears away on its gray stone base while it counts the silent hours.

As was pointed out in an earlier chapter, the landscape gardener attempts to establish a sort of hierarchy of nature, based on much the same principle as that which distinguishes a gentleman by his incapacity to do any useful work. Directly it is proved that a plant or a tree is good for food, it is expelled from the flower garden without any regard to its intrinsic beauty. The hazel-hedge has gone, and the apple-tree has long been banished from the flowers. Of all the trees an apple-tree in full bloom, or ripe in autumn, is perhaps the loveliest. Trained as an espalier it makes a beautiful hedge, and set out as in an orchard it lets the sun play through its leaves and



chequer with gold the green velvet of the grass in a way that no other tree will quite allow. Nothing can be more beautiful than some of the walks under the apple-trees in the gardens at Penshurst. Yet the landscape gardener would shudder at the idea of planting a grove or hedge of apple-trees in his garden. Instead of this he will give you a conifer or a monkey-puzzler, though the guelder-rose grows wild in the meadow and the spindle-tree in the wood, and the rowan, the elder, and the white-thorn; and the wild cherry in autumn fires the woodland with its crimson and gold. Every one admires these as a matter of proper sensibility to nature, but it does not seem to occur to people that they would grow with as little difficulty in a garden, and at the very smallest expense. It would undoubtedly injure the business of the nursery gardener to allow that they were possible. Again, the pear-tree and the chequer-tree, the quince, the medlar, and the mulberry are surely entitled by their beauty to a place in the garden. It is only since nature has been taken in hand by the landscapist and taught her proper position that these have been excluded. When there was no talk about nature, and man had not learnt to consider himself as something detached from nature and altogether superior, the fruit-tree was counted among the beauties of the garden. It is of fruit-trees that Homer

tells us in the garden of Alcinous : " Without the palace, near the doors, was a great garden, four acres by four, and round it on every side was driven a fence. There grew tall trees and beautiful pears and pomegranates, and apple-trees with gleaming fruit, and luscious figs and teeming olive-trees." <sup>1</sup> Or again, in the ground of a mediæval tapestry all beautiful flowers and fruits grow together, the strawberry next the violet, and columbines among the raspberries, and fair roses twine among the apple boughs. So again with flowers : " The dahlia has banished the hollyhock, with its old friend the sunflower, into the cottage garden, where it still flanks the little walk that leads from the wicket to the porch—not the only instance in which our national taste has been redeemed by the cottage against the vulgar pretensions of luxury and wealth." <sup>2</sup> It is more of this unsophisticated liking for everything that is beautiful that ought to be allowed full play in the gardens ; less of the pedantry that lays down rules about nature and is at heart indifferent to the beauty about which it preaches.

If there were any truth in his cant about nature would the landscape gardener bed out

<sup>1</sup> *Odyssey*, vii. 112-116—

ἔκτοσθεν δ' αὐλῆς μέγας ὄρχατος ἀγχι θυράων  
τετράγυος· περὶ δ' ἔρκος ἐλήλαται ἀμφοτέρωθεν.  
ἐνθα δὲ δένδρεα μακρὰ πεφύκει τηλεθόωντα  
ὄγχυαι καὶ ῥοιαί, καὶ μηλέαι ἀγλαόκαρποι  
συκαὶ τε γλυκεραί, καὶ ἐλαίαι τηλεθώσσαι.

<sup>2</sup> James, in *The Carthusian*.

asters and geraniums, would he make the lawn hideous with patches of brilliant red varied by streaks of purple blue, and add his finishing touch in the magenta of his choicest dahlia? Would he plant them in patterns of stars and lozenges and tadpoles? would he border them with paths of asphalt? Would he not rather fill his borders with every kind of beautiful flower that he might delight in? It is impossible to take his professions seriously when he so flies in the face of nature, when he transplants exotics into impossible conditions, when rarity, difficulty, and expense of production are his tests of the value of a flower. The beauty that he claims for his garden is not his but that of the flowers, the grass, the sunlight, and the cloud, which no amount of bad design can utterly destroy.

A garden is so much an individual affair—it should show so distinctly the idiosyncrasy of its owner—that it would be useless to offer any hints as to its details. The brief sketch which has been given of the development of the formal garden will indicate the very wide field of design which it includes, and the abuses and extravagance which led to its decay and ultimate extinction. The study of its history will at least show the dangers to be avoided, and they can be summarised in the faults of over-elaboration and affectation. The characteristic of the old formal garden, the garden of Mark-

ham and Lawson, was its exceeding simplicity. The primary purpose of a garden as a place of retirement and seclusion, a place for quiet thought and leisurely enjoyment, was kept steadily in view. The grass and the yew-trees

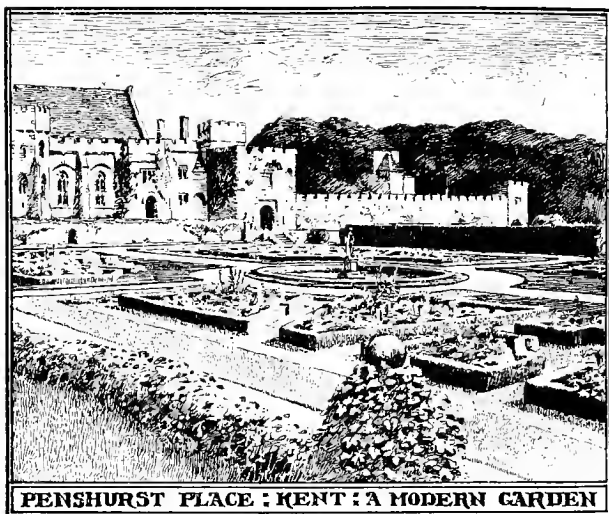


FIG. 65.

were trimmed close to gain their full beauty from the sunlight. Sweet kindly flowers filled the knots and borders. Peacocks and pigeons brightened the terraces and lawns. The paths were straight and ample, the garden-house solidly built and comfortable; everything was reasonable and unaffected. But this simple

genuine delight in nature and art became feebler as the seventeenth century grew older. Gardening became the fashionable art, and this was the golden age for professional gardeners ; but the real pleasure of it was gone. Rows of statues were introduced from the French, costly architecture superseded the simple terrace, intricate parterres were laid out from gardeners' pattern books, and meanwhile the flowers were forgotten. It was well that all this pomp should be swept away. We do not want this extravagant statuary, this aggressive prodigality.

But though one would admit that in its decay the formal garden became unmanageable and absurd, the abuse is no argument against the use. An attempt has been made in this book to show the essential reasonableness of the principles of Formal Gardening, and the sanity of its method when properly handled. The long yew-hedge is clipped and shorn because we want its firm boundary lines and the plain mass of its colour ; the grass bank is formed into a definite slope to attain the beauty of close-shaven turf at varied angles with the light. The broad grass walk, with its paved footpath in the centre, is cool to walk upon in summer and dry on the pavement in winter ; and the flower border on either side is planted with every kind of delightful flower, so that the refinements of its colour may be enjoyed all through the summer. It is not

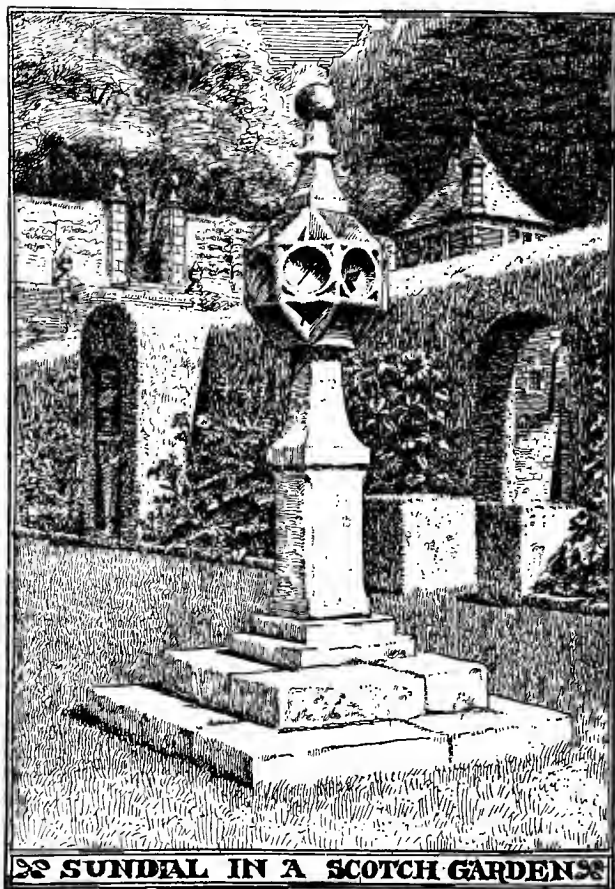


FIG. 66.

filled with bedded-out plants, because for long months it would be bare and desolate, because there is no pleasure in a solid spot of hard blazing colour, and because there is delight in the associations of the sweet old-fashioned flowers. There is music in their very names :—

“In the garden, what in the garden ?  
Jacob's ladder, and Solomon's seal,<sup>1</sup>  
And love lies bleeding, with none to heal,  
In the garden.”

Gillyflowers and columbines, sweet-williams, sweet-johns, hollyhocks and marigolds, ladies' slipper, London pride, bergamot and dittany, fine-haired jacint, pease everlasting, bachelor's buttons, flower of Bristol, love in a mist, apple of love, crown imperial, shepherd's needle, sage of Bethlehem, floramor or flower-gentle, good-night at noone, herb Paris, Venus's looking-glass—these are a few old names to contrast with the horrors of a nursery gardener's catalogue, and these, too, are the sort of flowers for the garden. The formal garden lends itself readily to designs of smaller gardens within the garden—such as gardens of roses and lilies, or of poppies, or “coronary gardens,” as they used to be called, filled with all flowers for garlands, such as Spenser names :—

<sup>1</sup> See Gerard's *Herbal*, chap. 324. Gerard remarks that this flower was a sovereign remedy for any bruises due to “women's wilfulness in stumbling upon their hastie husbands' fists.”

"Bring hither the pinke and purple columbine,  
     With gillyflowers,  
 Bring sweet carnations, and sops in wine,<sup>1</sup>  
     Worne of paramours,  
 Strew me the ground with daffa-down-dillies  
 And cowslips, and king-cups, and loved lilies,  
     The pretty paunce  
     And the chevisaunce  
 Shall match with the faire flower de luce."<sup>2</sup>

These and many another fancy, such as English men and women loved three hundred years ago, might be carried out, not for archæology, not for ostentation, but because they give real pleasure and delight. This, after all, is the only principle. It is nothing to us that the French did this or the Italians that; the point is, what has been done in England, what has been loved here, by us and by those before us. The best English tradition has always been on the side of refinement and reserve; it has loved beauty—not the obvious beauty of the south, but the charm and tenderness, the inexpressible sweetness of faces that fill the memory like half-remembered music. This is the feeling that one would wish to see realised in the garden again, not the coarse facility that overwhelms with its astonishing cleverness, but the delicate touch of the artist, the finer scholarship which loves the past and holds thereby the key to its meaning.

<sup>1</sup> "Sops in wine" is given by Gerard in his chapter on Clover Gillyflowers as a variety of that flower.

<sup>2</sup> Iris.



# APPENDIX I

## EVELYN'S GARDEN BOOK

BRAY'S *Memoirs of Evelyn*, vol. ii. p. 107.—“Amongst Mr. E.'s papers was found this printed sketch of the intended work above mentioned under the title of

### ELYSIUM BRITANNICUM

#### IN THREE BOOKS

*Præmissis præ mittendis, etc.*

#### BOOK I

##### CHAP.

1. A garden derived and defined, with its distinction and sorts.
2. Of a gardener, and how he is to be qualified.
3. Of the principles and elements in generall.
4. Of the fire.
5. Of the aire and winde.
6. Of the water.
7. Of the earth.
8. Of the celestial influences, particularly the sun and moon, and of the climates.
9. Of the four seasons.
10. Of the mould and soil of a garden.
11. Of the composts and stercoration.
12. Of the generation of plants.

## BOOK II

## CHAP.

1. Of the instruments belonging to a gardiner and their several uses.
2. Of the situation of a garden with its extent.
3. Of framing, enclosing and plotting and disposing the ground.
4. Of a seminary and of propagating trees, plants and flowers.
5. Of knots, parterres, compartiments, bordures, and embossements.
6. Of walks, terraces, carpets and allies, bowling-greens, mails, their materials and proportion.
7. Of groves, labyrinths, dædales, cabinets, cradles, pavilions, galleries, close walks, and other relievos.
8. Of transplanting.
9. Of fountains, cascades, rivulets, piscinas, and water-works.
10. Of rocks, grots, crypts, mountains, precipices, porticos, ventiducts.
11. Of statues, columns, dyalls, perspectives, pots, vases, and other ornaments.
12. Of artificiaall echoes, musick, and hydraulic motions.
13. Of aviaries, apiaries, vivaries, insects.
14. Of orangeries and conservatories of rare plants.
15. Of verdures, perennial greens, and perpetuall springs.
16. Of coronary gardens ; flowers and rare plants, how they are to be propagated, governed, and improved, together with a catalogue of the choycest trees, shrubs, plants, and flowers, and how a gardiner is to keep his register.
17. Of the philosophico-medicaall garden.
18. Of a vineyard.
19. Of watering, pruning, clipping, rolling, weeding, etc.
20. Of the enemies and infirmities to which a garden is obnoxious, and the remedies.
21. Of the gardiner's Almanack, or *Kalendarium Hortense*,

directing what he is to do monethly and what flowers are in prime.

## Book III

## CHAP.

1. Of conserving, properating, retarding, multiplying, transmuting, and altering the species. Formes and substantial qualities of flowers.
2. Of chaplets, festoons, flower-pots, nosegaies, and posies.
3. Of the gardiner's elaboratory, and of distilling and extracting of essences, resuscitation of plants, with other rare experiments.
4. Of composing the *Hortus Hyemalis* and making books of natural arid plants and flowers with other curious wayes of preserving them in their naturall.
5. Of planting of flowers. Flowers enamell'd in silk-work, and other artificial representation of them.
6. Of Hortulane entertainments, to show riches, beauty, wonder, plenty, delight, and use of a garden festival, etc.
7. Of the most famous gardens in the world, antient and moderne.
8. The description of a villa. The corollarie and conclusion."

## APPENDIX II

### COUNT TALLARD'S GARDEN AT NOTTINGHAM

MARSHAL COUNT TALLARD, the commander of the French forces, was taken prisoner at the battle of Blenheim, or Hochstedt as the Germans called it, and interned at Nottingham. London and Wise laid out a garden for him in 1706, of which they have left a detailed description in *The Retired Gard'ner*. The reproduction is taken from the plate in *Les Délices de la Grande Bretagne*. In front of the house was a terrace about 60 feet long and 14 wide. In front of this was a parterre of grass-work, generally called a "fund of grass," laid out in cut-work (*gazon coupé*) all in grass. The paths of this parterre were filled in with different coloured materials, such as brick dust, coal slag, sand, etc. There seem to have been no flowers to this parterre, except some plants in pots, and this particular part of the design sounds rather puerile.

Above this parterre on the right was another parterre with a grass terrace on a higher level. Below it and in front of it was a third parterre in grass, reached by a flight of seven steps. At the farther end of the garden was a raised walk of grass, with a border of flowers on one side, and pyramidal trees and flower-pots on the other. At the left-hand corner was a banqueting-house, reached from the raised walk, with a room under it, entered from the level

of the third parterre. The walks were about 8 feet wide ; the entire garden appears only to have measured 150 feet

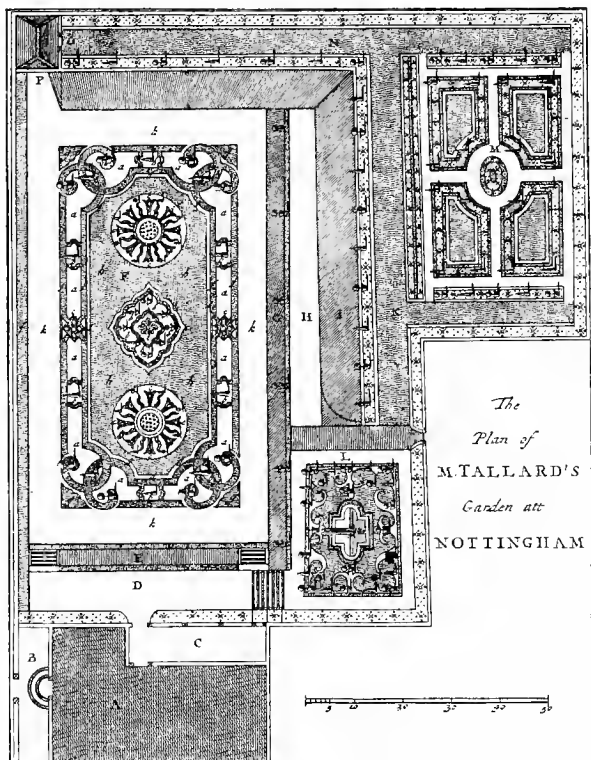


FIG. 67.

long by 140 wide in the widest part. It is interesting as a contemporary account of a small town garden written by the actual designers.

## APPENDIX III

### LIST OF PRINCIPAL WORKS REFERRED TO

- "THE Romance of the Rose." Harleian MS. 4425.
- DR. ANDREW BORDE—"The Boke for to lerne a man to be wyse in buyldyng of his house." 1540. 8vo.
- THOMAS HILL—"A most briefe and pleasaunt treatyse teachynge how to dress, sowe, and set a garden." London, 1563. 8vo.
- "The profitable Arte of Gardening." London, 1568. 8vo.
- DIDYMUS MOUNTAINE—"The Gardener's Labyrinth." London, 1577. 4to.
- OLIVIER DE SERRES—"Le Théâtre d'Agriculture et mesnage des Champs." Paris, 1603. Folio.
- BACON'S "Essays." Golden Treasury Series.
- HENTZNER—"Itinerarium Germaniae Galliae Angliae, etc." Nuremberg, 1612. 4to.
- CRISPIN DE PASS—"Hortus Floridus." Arnhem, 1614.
- GERVASE MARKHAM—"The English Husbandman." London, 1614. 4to.
- "A Way to get Wealth." London, 1638. 4to.
- "The Country Farm." 1615.
- WILLIAM LAWSON—"A New Orchard and Garden." "The Countrie Housewife's Garden." London, 1618. 4to.

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BY

REGINALD BLOMFIELD, M.A., F.S.A.

AUTHOR OF 'A HISTORY OF RENAISSANCE ARCHITECTURE IN ENGLAND'

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